

The Middlebury Campus

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Council decides to disband Delta

By Claire Abbadi

On Monday, March 18, Community Council went into executive session to continue the discussion from last Tuesday on whether to accept the Social House Review Committee's recommendation to disband Delta, the social house organization currently residing in Prescott house. By 5:50 p.m. the Council had voted on a motion to approve the Committee's recommendation. The majority of the Council felt that this course of action was the most appropriate, with 13 members voting in favor of the disbandment of Delta, four members voting against and one member abstaining.

Community Council's formal recommendation will now be passed to President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz, who will make the ultimate decision on the fate of the house.

Both co-chairs of Community Council emphasized that multiple factors were weighed during the decision-making process.

"We considered the input from Delta and input from the Residential Life Committee," explained Student Co-Chair of Community Council Barrett Smith '13.

"All letters, emails and comments that were either submitted to the Council or made at the open session last week were considered during the Council meeting," wrote Dean of the College and Co-Chair of Community Council Shirley Collado in an email.

"[Our recommendation] is on President Liebowitz's desk. He can sign it tomorrow; he could sign it at the end of the year. It is really up to him from this point

on," added Smith.

Regardless of Liebowitz's decision, the students who currently reside in Prescott will continue to do so until the conclusion of this academic year.

If the organization is officially disbanded, those students will be dealt with on an individual basis should disciplinary issues arise, whereas in the past, they faced disciplinary action as an organization.

"Prescott house residents will continue to live where they have been living, they don't have to move out at this point in the year ... but they will need to abide by college policy," said Associate Dean of Students and Chair of the Residential Life Committee Doug Adams. Violation of policy in the event of disbandment, Adams explained, could potentially result in removal from the house and placement in any other available space on campus.

"One of the huge benefits of being a social house is that you have collective responsibility," said Smith. "The Inter-House Council (IHC) reviews information from Public Safety and recommends action against the house, but not against individuals."

Clearly the choice of Community Council is not what I wanted the outcome to be," wrote President of Delta Luke Battle '14 in an email. "That being said, we did not follow the wishes of the administration."

However, Dan Lungo '13, former president of Delta, explained that the organization will continue working to fight the recommendation by meeting

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SWINGING TOWARD GRADUATION



COURTESY OF OLIVER SUTRO

On Saturday, March 16, college seniors danced into the early hours of the next morning in the McCullough Social Space at the 100 Days Party. Drew Miller '13 and Kelsanah Wade '13, above, tear up the dance floor together while celebrating the approximately 65 days until graduating on May 26.

Science research grants dwindle

By Emily Singer

A decrease in the amount of federal funding available for science research grants is putting pressure on the College to seek other sources of funding for undergraduate research assistant positions, particularly within the natural sciences. A summer research assistant position demands, on average, between \$3,000 and \$5,000 of funding, and federal grants have previously comprised a large portion of these grants at the College.

Unlike other educational programs at the College, summer research does not come from department funds or program funds, which are usually used to fund other academic programming. Instead, professors and students can

seek funding from a variety of endowed funds, internal grants and scholarships from the Undergraduate Research Office (URO). Professors can also use money from the College's faculty development fund to hire research assistants.

Outside of the College, federal grants and national scholarships are also available. Due to federal budget cuts, the amount of funding available for grants has dropped, and with it, the number of grants awarded has also decreased.

"I've been here 27 years and I've had some degree of federal funding for almost all of them, but every now and then one runs out and there's a gap between the next one coming in," said Jeff Byers, the Sarah Stewart professor of chemistry and biochemistry. "It just so

happens this year, in [the chemistry and biochemistry departments], a number of professors happen to have grants run out."

Burr Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Rick Bunt is one such professor. His grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) expired last year and has not yet been renewed. He is looking toward internal grants through the College to fund two research assistants in his lab this summer.

The decrease in federal funding has made grants a less reliable resource, and the College is looking to endow research funds to assure financial stability for research assistant positions.

"With federal funding getting tighter and tighter, we're looking at

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SPRING SNOW



ALI ROTATORI

A snowstorm rocked the Northeast on the night of Monday, March 18 and the snowfall continued well into the next day. Above, students trek up the hill toward Mead Chapel through several inches of snow and cold weather, which hit Middlebury just one day before the first official day of spring on March 20.

Author to address 2013 graduates

By Kathryn DeSutter

Jonathan Safran Foer, author of *Everything is Illuminated* and other international best-selling works of both fiction and nonfiction, will deliver the commencement address to the class of 2013 on May 26.

Safran Foer will also receive a Doctor of Letters degree at the ceremony. Other honorary degree recipients include Edward Burtynsky, artist and photographer; Megan Camp, vice president and program director at Shelburne Farms; Jacqueline Novogratz, founder and CEO of the Acumen Fund and Stuart Schwartz '62, the George Burton Adams professor of history and professor of international and area studies at Yale.

Safran Foer's *Everything is Illuminated* was the assigned reading for the class of 2013 for their

fall orientation in 2009. Members of the class read the novel during the summer and discussed its themes during orientation workshops.

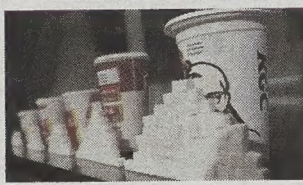
President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz said he was "very happy and pleased" to host Safran Foer, a commencement speaker nominated by several students.

"We try our best to respond to students' desires," said Liebowitz. "I think the orientation reading resonated with many students, so this selection is quite fitting."

International best-seller *Everything is Illuminated* was published in 2002 when Safran Foer was just 25 years old. The book, which chronicles the author's discovery of his family's history, was adapted into a major motion picture in 2005 starring Eli

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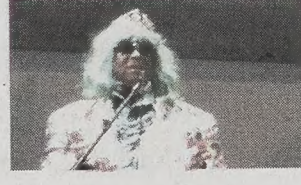
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BEYOND THE BUBBLE

BY DANNY ZHANG

At 2:07 p.m. EST last Wednesday, March 13, white smoke billowed out of the chimney of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican, signaling to the thousands of Catholics gathered in St. Peter's Square and to the world that the College of Cardinals had elected the 266th Supreme Pontiff of the Catholic Church.

The historic papal conclave, convened quickly after the unexpected resignation of Pope Benedict XVI in February, began a day earlier, on March 12, with no conclusive results. On the fifth ballot of the conclave in late Wednesday afternoon, Cardinal and Archbishop of Buenos Aires Jorge Mario Bergoglio received the two-thirds majority vote needed to win.

French Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran announced his name more than an hour after the white smoke first appeared. Shortly thereafter, Cardinal Bergoglio, who chose for himself the papal name Francis, stepped out onto the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica to greet the crowd gathered below, which had grown sizably after the white smoke appeared.

"You all know that the duty of the Conclave was to give a bishop to Rome," Pope Francis began. "It seems that my brother Cardinals have come almost to the ends of the Earth to get him."

As widely speculated prior to the conclave, Pope Francis' election marked a number of historic firsts. He is the first pope from the Americas and the Southern Hemisphere. He is the first from outside Europe since Gregory III reigned in the mid-eighth century. Bergoglio is also the first Jesuit elected to the papacy. In addition, his choice of the name Francis was a previously unused name since Pope Lando in the early 10th century.

Bergoglio's election came as a surprise both for its speed and its result. With no clear frontrunner at the start of the conclave, the voting was expected to last much longer than the 2005 conclave, during which Cardinal Ratzinger was the obvious choice to succeed Pope John Paul II. Instead, it only took one more ballot than the 2005 conclave for Bergoglio to cross the two-thirds threshold. It has been widely reported that Bergoglio won as many as 40 votes at one point in the 2005 conclave as runner-up to Ratzinger.

Despite his strong showing in 2005, Bergoglio was hardly mentioned as a contender this time around. In the days leading up to last week's conclave, Cardinals Odilo Scherer of Brazil and Angelo Scola of Italy were considered the top candidates. To put Bergoglio's election in perspective, his odds of winning ranged between 25:1 and 150:1 on various betting websites.

Bergoglio was born in 1936 in Buenos Aires to Italian immigrants. He is just two years younger than Pope Benedict XVI at the time of his election. Despite earning a chemistry degree in the late 1950's, Bergoglio embarked on the path to priesthood. He served as Argentina's Jesuit provincial in the 1970's. His actions in that post have been subject to controversy as some have accused him of turning a blind eye to the Dirty War kidnappings of two Jesuit priests by the military dictatorship at the time.

Nonetheless, Bergoglio became the Archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998 before being elevated to the College of Cardinals in 2001. Bergoglio's doctrinal views are staunchly conservative, putting him at odds with the social liberalism of current Argentine President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner.

Yet, Bergoglio is loved by many for his humble lifestyle. As archbishop, he refused to live lavishly and instead cooked his own meals and took the bus to work. Bergoglio is also known for his passion for social justice and support for the poor. In his first statement to the press last Saturday, the new pope explained that he chose the name Francis in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, a "man of poverty" and "a man of peace."

Ofosu-Somuah receives Watson

By Jess Berry

On Friday, March 15, Barbara Ofosu-Somuah '13 found out that she was selected as a Watson fellow for the 2013 - 2014 academic year for her project titled "The Choreography of Black Hair: A Framework for Cultural Inquiry."

The Watson Fellowship grants graduating seniors a \$25,000 stipend for a full year's worth of travel outside of the United States in order to pursue research on a topic of personal interest. The selected fellows must remain out of the U.S. for the full 365 days in order to receive funding.

This year there were over 700 candidates for the fellowship. Participating schools then selected 148 finalists to compete on the national level, from which 40 fellows were selected. Middlebury itself had 27 applicants this year, up from last year's 23, and submitted four finalists — Jordie Ricigliano '13, Davis Anderson '13, Anoushka Sinha '13 and Ofosu-Somuah. Sinha was selected as an alternate for the fellowship and will find out on March 29 if she will be named a fellow.

This year's fellows hail from eight different countries and 14 different states.

Director of Internships Peggy Burns said there was fierce competition to become a finalist for Middlebury.

"It is always such a tough decision to narrow it down to four [students]," Burns wrote in an email. "It was an honor and privilege to work with these four Watson nominees."

Ofosu-Somuah's research will take her to five different countries: Suriname, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and South Africa. Her project aims to look at the cultural effects and implications of different hairstyles for black women in these countries.

"I guess my founding question is how you conceptualize beauty within yourself and within the black culture," explained Ofosu-Somuah.

She explained that her research will focus on the different responses to and effects of two different types of hair for black women — the "eurocentric" style, described by Ofosu-Somuah as chemically-straightened or braided hair, or "afrocentric" style, which she said includes afros, curly hair or leaving hair in its "natural state." She also expressed her belief in the

importance of this research in greater cultural contexts.

"I think in the end I'm trying to say that for black women, our hair is just as important to us and to our lives as our race, our gender and our sexuality," she said.

Ofosu-Somuah will be working at a natural hair festival in Suriname for one month. She will then spend two months in Brazil — one working at a natural hair salon and the second at a women's empowerment organization. From there, she will move to the Dominican Republic, where she will work at a beauty school. She'll spend three months in Jamaica working at Curly-Centric, a self-described support group for Jamaican women with natural hair, and finally will end her travels in South Africa, working at a micro-financing group called Jabu Stone that "aims to promote natural hair care and pride."

She cited her interest in the cultural implications of black women's hair as beginning with her time at Middlebury. Ofosu-Somuah started as a first-year with braids and noticed that her hair became a topic of conversation. Students would often ask if they could touch her hair, but would then touch her without waiting for her verbal permission.

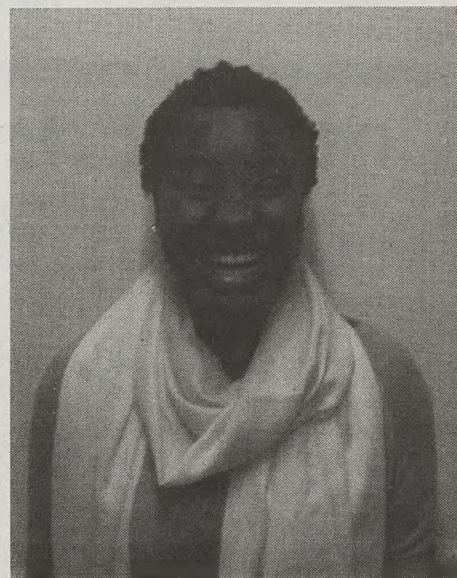
"And so for the first time at Middlebury, it oftentimes felt like my body was not my own," she said. "It was kind of an object of fascination that people wanted to explore, without waiting for my permission to do so."

Ofosu-Somuah then cut her hair, going "natural" during the summer after her first year at Middlebury. When she cut her hair, she received extremely negative reactions from her family and community at home, and then continued to be an "object of fascination" at the College.

It was at this time that Ofosu-Somuah became interested in the implications of her natural hair, and through research she learned that there was a worldwide "natural hair movement."

"Without me knowing it, I had joined this movement," she said. "And I hadn't expected to, but now I was a part of it, and I wanted to know more."

"So that's where my project stems from — hair for black women around the world and how people respond to it and how black women maneuver and negotiate dif-



COURTESY OF BARBARA OFOSU-SOMUAH

Barbara Ofosu-Somuah '13 was awarded the Watson Fellowship for her project "The Choreography of Black Hair."

ferent spaces based on their hair."

Associate Professor of American Studies and Director of the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity Susan Burch, who wrote Ofosu-Somuah's recommendation for the fellowship, believed the connection between Ofosu-Somuah's personal life and her research proposal was essential to the future success of the work.

"[Ofosu-Somuah's] project to consider identity and culture in indigenous communities of color through the framework of hair provides an ideal opportunity for her to integrate her cumulative academic and personal experiences," wrote Burch in an email. "Working with and learning from other communities will undoubtedly open her to new understandings of herself, her own life story and the broader world."

Roger Sandwick, the mentor for Ofosu-Somuah's Posse group, expressed his pride in her selection as a fellow.

"The whole [Posse] group is proud of her achievement," wrote Sandwick in an email. "In Barbara, [the Watson Fellowship] has certainly found and acknowledged a future leader of our society. I don't doubt she will change the world."

There will be an information session in late April for students interested in applying for the Watson Fellowship in the future.



SGA UPDATE

"We the Middkids" invites student opinions

By Will Schwartz

The Student Government Organization (SGA) held meetings on Sunday, March 10 and Sunday, March 17.

Finance Committee Report and Compromise

On March 3, the SGA approved every section of the Finance Committee Report, except the section pertaining to transportation reimbursement. A proposal was made to reduce the driving reimbursement to \$0.24 a mile, but a compromise was reached to raise that value to \$0.35. This final section of the Finance Committee Report was approved unanimously.

Housing Update

Doug Adams, associate dean of students and chair of the Residential Life Committee, spoke to the SGA about housing. There are no major upcoming changes regarding housing at the College. There could be changes in the future dealing with new residence halls, but nothing has been determined at this point.

Election of a New Feb Senator

Evan Allis '15.5 has been elected to the newly created position of Feb Senator.

He attended his first meeting on March 17.

We the Middkids

Chief of Staff Anna Esten '13 and Senator Hasher Nisar '16 helped create a new online petition system for students to address their concerns about the College.

"I'm very excited by the potential of We the Middkids to fill a communication gap between the SGA and the student body," wrote Esten in an email.

"Oftentimes students don't have a venue to share their ideas or suggestions unless they personally know a Senator," she added. "I hope this will give every student the opportunity to pass their concerns on to the SGA and will give the SGA a better sense of what the rest of the student body wants and needs."

Senators urged that the student body use the new website seriously so that legitimate concerns can be raised and addressed.

Re-Evaluation of Increased Parking Fines

Junior Senator Killian Naylor '14.5 sponsored a bill titled "A resolution in support of the re-evaluation of fines for parking in faculty/staff designated spaces."

The main concern of the bill was that parking fines had been raised from \$10 to \$50. Naylor argued that many parking tickets are a result of innocent mistakes, and that it is unfair to students to increase rates by 500 percent. He suggested that fines be changed to \$25.

"A 500 percent increase seems too drastic and, given the complicated and intricate rules surrounding parking, excessive for what is often an honest mistake," said Naylor.

SGA President Charlie Arnowitz '13 added, "I think the \$25 fee that the SGA suggested represents a good compromise between setting the right incentives and not overcharging students who end up making a mistake. \$25 is a significant enough disincentive and is on par with almost all of our peer schools."

Ultimately, the SGA approved Naylor's bill unanimously, and it will be recommended to Public Safety that parking fines be reduced from \$50 to \$25.

The Email Revolution Resolution

Arnowitz proposed a bill titled, "The Email Revolution Resolution." The bill proposes to allow students to subscribe and unsubscribe to whatever emails they like from Middlebury accounts. The SGA approved the bill unanimously with little debate.

Research assistant funding decreases

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

changes in budgets in a very serious way right now," said Dean of Curriculum and Faculty Development Bob Cluss. "If it becomes more difficult to continue to win grants from extramural funding agencies, then we'll have to rely more on college sources to support research positions for students."

According to Cluss, the College Advancement Office is working "diligently to raise money to endow more positions."

"I know, for instance, two alumni of my lab who are very successful and wanted to give back to the College ... have started to endow research positions," Byers said. "[In terms of our] long-term ability to support long-term research as an institution, [endowing funds] is kind of a really nice way to keep this going the way we want to keep this going."

The College anticipates that between 85 and 90 students will be working on-campus this summer as research assistants, 60 of whom will be working in the natural sciences. All will require funding of some sort.

The process of being hired for a summer research assistant position at the College is unstructured, and is dependent upon the preferences and requirements of individual professors. In most situations, professors prefer to work with students with whom they are familiar and who have past research experience, be it at the College or at an outside institution.

"You have to take courses with me first, so that I can get to know you. And then you have to have taken some upper-level courses," said John G. McCullough Professor of Chemistry Sunhee Choi. "Or, some excellent students, after they have taken my advanced general chemistry and do some shadowing during the semester, if they really like it and they've demonstrated their ability to do research, then I will hire [them]."

Interdepartment communication plays a crucial role in finding research positions for students; if one professor cannot offer a spot

in a lab, a colleague may have availability or know of another opportunity. The lack of structure in the hiring process, however, can make it difficult to know what or how many opportunities exist.

"We always strive to be sure that we understand what the need is and how best to meet it," said Cluss. "The priority is to pursue our research goals while also creating opportunities for student-faculty collaboration," said Cluss.

An increase in the number of students majoring in the natural sciences, and particularly those following the pre-medical track, has resulted in an increased demand for summer research positions. This happens to coincide with a decline in the availability of federal research grants, and thus the amount of money available to fund research assistants. As a result, fewer students than usual will be on campus conducting research this summer within the chemistry and biochemistry departments, according to Byers.

Funding restraints are not the only limiting factor when professors look to hire research assistants, as personal ability to manage students and safely conduct lab research play a major role.

"What I've found is my ideal number, with my ability to provide them with a quality educational experience and have room in my laboratory, the number three or four is usually what works for me," Byers said.

He expects to carry two students in his lab this summer, but noted that more often than not, he is "limited more by the ability of one person to manage a certain number of research assistants than by money."

While the College is able to offer students a highly personalized and hands-on research experience, large research universities and research institutes offer more positions each summer and provide valuable experiences to those who could not find opportunities at the College.

Under the guidance of Choi, Geoff Vrla '14 applied and was accepted to the National Nanotechnology Infrastructure Network

Research Experience for Undergraduates Program (NNIN REU) summer research program last year. Of the 95 NNIN REU participants last summer, Vrla is one of 15 who was given the opportunity to continue his research at a laboratory in Japan this summer.

"If I hadn't gotten the scholarship, I would have done research at Middlebury last summer," Vrla wrote in an email. "Since I was able to work somewhere new, I was able to broaden my research experience and encounter new fields of science that were of interest to me." Vrla added that the high-tech instruments to which he was given access, such as scanning electron microscopes, cannot be found at smaller colleges and exposed him "to how innovative and exciting research can be."

Research at the College, by contrast, provides a more collaborative experience, as students are frequently listed as co-authors of published articles and research findings.

"At Middlebury College, we design our research programs so that individual research students ... can take a project and maybe if not finish it, at least progress it to the point with their own drive and their own ability and our resources and our time to make real research that's meaningful research, that's fundable research, that's publishable research," Byers said. "It's something that they can take their bite out of and push the project while it's focused on them, rather than someone else's career."

For professors, this highly immersive process comes with downsides that students many not be aware of.

"I want students and other general public to know that funds for students is just one factor for the involvement of students in the faculty research," Choi said. "The more important factor is the total dedication to research by both faculty and students in order to do the meaningful research without wasting government or college funds," alluding to the challenge of finding highly qualified students to work in her lab, as well as drawing in ample funding.



BY GREGORY WOOLSTON '14

Amman, Jordan

As part of the Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs' conference on the "Politics of Fresh Water: Access and Identity in a Changing Environment," my geology class at the University of Jordan recently spoke to Arabic students at Middlebury regarding the country's limited water supplies and resource management. As the discussion focused primarily on the scientific aspects of this environmental crisis (and was incomprehensible for anyone who does not speak Arabic), I wanted to briefly describe Amman's water situation on the human scale, or as it affects the city's residents on a daily basis.

As opposed to an underground infrastructure for water's distribution, most apartments and homes in Amman rely on a delivery system and large rooftop storage tanks. Water trucks continuously refill these tanks based on a set schedule depending on where one lives within the city. I've heard and read that Amman's wealthier areas receive water both more often and on a more regular basis than the city's poorer districts. A greater concern, however, is whether these poor residents can afford water at all. A 2009 article in *Geoforum* found that the majority of poor residents pay much more than the base "lifeline" rate implemented to assist them; in reality, they are paying three to ten times this rate due to larger families and sharing amongst neighbors. This quarterly tariff sits on top of an initial investment of anywhere from \$282 to \$2,820 dollars for a storage tank, electric pump and necessary piping.

Although most residents participate in a rationing schedule to ensure water's presence throughout the week, it's certainly possible for the supply to run out before the next scheduled delivery. Private water tankers and bottled water allow the city's wealthy to supplement their supply; however, these options remain somewhat inaccessible for Amman's poor. No matter one's income, many tend to worry about water quality even more than its quantity. The authors of the aforementioned article note, "37 percent of respondents believe some level of treatment is necessary to improve water quality or have switched to bottled water for drinking purposes."

Between quantity and quality, therefore, Amman's residents are plagued by water (in)security.

I've been quite fortunate throughout the past month and a half in Amman; my building receives water deliveries fairly regularly, and I've yet to run out of water. I ensure this by restricting my water usage as much as possible, taking showers every other day and postponing my laundry until absolutely necessary. Nevertheless, I recently experienced my first day without access to water when my host family accidentally turned off the water valve in my apartment. While this is a far cry from genuinely running out of water, my water security had suddenly disappeared for the first time in my life. I had never considered water's importance when using it in the past; I realized it enabled life, but didn't think of its necessity in performing daily functions. Without water, you can no longer flush toilets or wash your hands; you're cooking ability is limited and the dirty dishes pile up. You realize how thirsty you are and recall water's unique ability to quench that thirst unlike anything else.

Endlessly apologizing, my host family switched on the valve the next evening and ensured that water was flowing in the kitchen and bathrooms. I have yet to view water the same way since.

Panel discusses social engagement

By Aleck Silva-Pinto

Continuing efforts to address the issue of student engagement outside of class, the Education in Action office (EIA) hosted a panel discussion on the role of social engagement within a liberal arts curriculum on March 18. The panel was made up of Professor of Economics John Isham, Associate Professor of Political Science Sarah Stroup and EIA Community Engagement Coordinator Ashley Calkins.

EIA aims to provide students with opportunities outside of the classroom, be it through continuing education or employment after graduation. The office mainly serves as a conduit between students, the College's alumni network and the local Middlebury community.

The first topic addressed by the panel was whether a liberal arts education requires social engagement. Professor of Economics John Isham argued that one does not necessarily require the other.

"A liberal arts education is about a dis-

covery of self. If a student does not believe they need to engage outside the classroom, then it should not be required," Isham said.

He went on to argue that a student's four years at the College should not be dictated by arbitrary guidelines, but rather should encourage each graduate to "reflect on a life well-lived," with or without work experience.

After the panel, however, Isham did note that opportunities for civic engagement outside the classroom should be offered at every institution of higher learning, noting that "people would not apply to all these colleges in the first place if they did not offer these opportunities."

This past winter term, Stroup taught a course on the ethics and procedures of philanthropic donations, in which students spent the month deciding how best to divide up a large donation from the Once Upon A Time Foundation.

"The class fostered a sense of interdisciplinary awareness, which was valuable

because it still felt like a classroom environment," Stroup said. She went on to support the idea that social engagement within the classroom is just as beneficial as social engagement outside of the classroom.

Calkins, the final panel member to speak, stressed the importance of off-campus initiatives promoted by EIA. Citing a recent example in which college students traveled to the Dominican Republic for a community service trip, Calkins illustrated how experiences outside of the college environment can be both unique and valuable.

"In the Dominican Republic, [Women's and Gender Studies] students were able to discuss ... gender roles with local teenage girls, which is a real-world learning experience that they would not have had otherwise," she said.

Audience members expressed an interest in increased opportunities for social engagement, such as more hands-on, experiential learning programs during winter term.

It's easy to feel a sense of alienation from institutional governance — but there are, in fact, lots of ways to get involved. Students don't always feel they have a way to communicate suggestions for positive institutional change.

To do our best to close the gap between the SGA and the rest of the student body, the SGA just launched our newest tool for soliciting feedback from the student body. Based on the White House's popular "We the People" platform, "We the Middkids" (go/wethemiddkids or go/democracy or go/firstamendment or go/petition) gives you the ability to bring any issue to the attention of the student government and the College administration. Hundreds of votes have already been cast, and students are voicing their opinions on issues ranging from providing reusable cups in the dining hall to parking problems on campus. The system is simple: cast up to three votes (out

of a total 10 available) for a petition you support, or start your own! If your petition receives 50 votes, we'll bring it up at the next SGA meeting. If it receives 100 votes, I'll record a "snappy" video response. You won't want to miss it! More importantly, we'll make an attempt to work on each of the issues brought to our attention.

If you've used up all your "We the Middkids" votes and you're still looking to discuss these issues, you can like us on Facebook, follow us on twitter at @Midd_SGA, visit our website (go/sga), stop by my office hours on Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m. in Crossroads, or come to an open SGA meeting on Sundays at 7 in the Crest Room. Student government exists because it is supposed to serve students — but we understand the perceived limitations to access. We want to serve students, and we're trying to make it as easy as possible.



BY CHARLIE ARNOWITZ

It's easy at Middlebury to take for granted our unlimited meal plan, free gym access and professors with seemingly unlimited office hours. Nonetheless, it's still clear that this isn't a perfect place — this becomes clearer with every comment about dishes, laundry machines, need-blind admissions or the workload.



WOMEN CAN COMBAT

BY TARA HUGHES

Brigadier General Loretta E. Reynolds is the first female Marine Corps general in charge of the Marine's basic training site on Parris Island, S.C. In recent years, Reynolds has graced headlines not only as a result of her title, but also due to her support for the recent overturning of a Pentagon ruling that has historically barred female Marines from combat.

Reynolds grew up in Baltimore, Md. as the youngest of five girls. Realizing her commitment to serve at an early age, Reynolds chose to attend the United States Naval Academy. Graduating in 1986, Reynolds became one of only eight female Marine generals and the first to have graduated from the Naval Academy. Shortly thereafter, Reynolds completed basic training and assumed her first duty assignment at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Most of Reynolds' experience lays in Marine Corps Communications — a non-combat division of the Marines in which female officers are able to advance. After her assignment at Camp Pendleton, Reynolds was assigned to the Marine Wing Communications Squadron in Okinawa, Japan.

As Reynolds shuffled through different assignments that took her to a variety of national and international bases, she pursued further education within the Marine Corps. These educational opportunities included courses at the Marine Corps University, Naval War College and the U.S. Army War College. In 2004-2005, Reynolds was deployed in Fallujah, Iraq and in March 2010-2011, was located at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan making her the first woman to command a Marine base in a combat zone. In her current role at Parris Island, Reynolds trains all of the Marines' women and almost half of the men on the base.

Reynolds' experience in the Marines is exemplary of the increasing instance of female leadership in the army. Recently, women have played a significant role in encouraging the review of legislation that deals with the boundaries of female military involvement.

Since 1918, women have served in the Marine Corps. Initially restricted to clerical duty, women were eventually able to serve in greater capacities and by 1975, were approved to serve in all occupational fields with the exception of infantry, artillery, armor and pilot/air crew.

In January, a 1994 Pentagon ruling that declared that women are restricted from artillery, armor, infantry and other military roles involving combat was overturned by then-Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta. This change had numerous implications for female Corps members. Because serving in combat positions is often crucial to career advancement, women in service had been unfairly restricted from demonstrating the qualities and dedication that combative service requires. With the recent change however, an abundance of additional front-line positions will open to female women in combat, granting them greater military equality.

In commenting upon the most recent case regarding the instatement of women in combat roles, Reynolds explained that she believes that the change will allow women to use the talent that they have always had.

MiddChallenge announces winners

By Sam Simas

On Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16, this year's MiddChallenge finalists pitched their ideas to a distinguished panel of judges in hopes of winning a \$3,000 grant, summer boarding and mentorship in one of three categories: business; arts; and education, outreach and policy.

MiddChallenge is an annual competition, begun in 2011 as Stonehenge, that allows students to take ideas and turn them into reality. This year 37 applicants vied for 15 finalist spots, with four to six in each category of competition.

Competitors in the business category presented Friday night, while those competing in the education, outreach and policy category and the arts category presented on Saturday morning and afternoon, respectively. Each presenter or group of presenters received time for an eight minute presentation and a seven minute question and answer session with the judges.

Each of the three categories has two winners. This year's winners in the business category were Ben Stasiuk '14 for his project "Uncle B's Firenuts" and "Integrated Milfoil Management" by Austin Ritter '13, Greg Dier '12.5 and Samuel Carlson.

Both winners in the Education, Outreach and Policy category were food-based projects. Elias Gilman '15, Nathan Weil '15, Christopher Kennedy '15, Oliver Mayers '15, Eduardo Danino-Beck '15, Harry Zieve-Cohen '15 and Jack Cookson '15 won with their project "Middlebury Foods," which aims to create boxes of low-priced, high-quality food for Vermonters and sell them at local churches and community centers weekly.

Winners Cailey Cron '13.5 and Molly Shane '13.5 will take excess food made in the college dining halls and deliver it to people in need at events like the community dinner with their project, "Share the Surplus."

Arts category project winners included Moss Turpan '14 and Dylan Redford

'14 and their project "WEDIDIT," as well as Aidesha-Kiya Vega-Hutchens '14 and Jun Chen '14 and their project "War at Home(room)."

"WEDIDIT" will be "collaborating with an L.A. based electronic music collective to produce an experimental film," wrote Redford in an email about the project. Meanwhile, "War at Home(room)" will compile oral histories of bullying in New England school systems.

"There were no proposals where we questioned how great the idea was," said Joanie Thompson '14, head organizer of choosing finalists out of all the applications for this year's competition. "It was really tough to choose."

Judges ranged from Jim Douglas, the former governor of Vermont, to Executive-in-Residence at the College and former president of Save the Children Fund Charlie McCormack as well as Corinne Prevot '13, founder of the popular headband brand Skida.

"The judges come from all walks of life, but they are all entrepreneurs," said Liz Robinson, director of the project on innovation in the liberal arts, of the distinguished men and women asked to select the MiddChallenge winners.

Criteria for judging was based on the impact of the idea, the impact of the MiddChallenge prize on the success of the idea and how well put together the proposal was, among other factors. Courtesy of the Projects on Creativity and Innovation Office (PCI), all finalists received coaching in improving their oral presentation skills and constructing a presentation earlier in the week.

"The process of competing in Mid-



PAUL GERARD

Cailey Cron '13.5 and Molly Shane '13.5 won in the Outreach and Policy category for their Share the Surplus idea on March 15.

dChallenge was as valuable as the grant itself," wrote Ritter, a winner in the business category, in an email. "The comprehensive application process forced us to think through all of the different components of our business model. And for the presentation component of the competition, the judges were not hesitant to criticize the weakness of our business, but they also encouraged us to overcome these weaknesses, to move forward with our idea and to think big."

Ritter's experience with the MiddChallenge program is exactly what PCI and the donors that support MiddChallenge hope students will take away from the experience. Regardless of whether they win or lose, all students receive guidance and mentorship. All of them will return to PCI later this week to reflect on their presentations and evaluate their own performances.

"MiddChallenge is about providing students with the opportunity to take an idea through the process of evaluation, preparation, presentation, action and reflection," said Robinson in a final note about the overall goal of the competition. "There is a huge amount of learning that comes from students taking their own ideas and taking them forward."

HARC adds museum studies track

By Nicolette Amber

The History of Art and Architecture (HARC) department announced several new changes to its major requirements and course offerings last week in an effort to better utilize the College's resources and to increase accessibility to the department for all students. In addition to making changes to the major requirements, the department announced the introduction of a museum studies track to HARC major to serve students' interest in museum and gallery work. The changes were driven by demonstrated student interest along with recommendations from the department's faculty, and were directed by Christian A. Johnson Professor and Chair of the Department of the History of Art and Architecture Cynthia Packert.

While explaining the purpose of the recent changes, Packert pointed to the popularity of summer and winter term internships and the potential professional benefits of offering the museum studies track.

"We are unlike most undergraduate art history programs in offering this [new museum studies option] because it is an introduction to hands-on, experiential learning in the major," said Packert. "A lot of our collection here is based upon student input. Students help curate, help figure out what to put on the walls, what to write on the labels, and what to purchase."

The museum studies program emphasizes learning within a museum environment, allowing students to get hands-on experience with different collections of art. Pieter Broucke, director of the arts and professor of art and architecture, also pointed out the benefits of the College's teaching

museum, which provides an opportunity for students to acquire experience they can carry into internships and careers.

"The museum studies academic option has grown over time as a result of student interest, and the popularity of the Museum Assistants program," said Broucke. "And [there are] an increasing number of courses that use the museum, especially the recent addition of the large introductory course in museum studies that the museum director, [museum director Dr. Richard] Saunders, is now teaching."

"[The new introductory course] is structured so that students receive an abundance of intellectual challenges, as well as some hands-on experience," said Saunders. "It is a good example of a curriculum in which theory meets practice."

The Museum Assistants program as a long-standing co-curricular activity has allowed students to develop skills and knowledge of key aspects of working within a museum setting by interacting with the collections and Curator at the College's museum. The Museum Studies track essentially formalizes this program and incorporates it into the academic curriculum, making it more visible to students.

Broucke expressed hopes that the inclusion of museum studies courses with the art history minor will make the museum more relevant to a broader range of students.

"The new major track in museum studies is for majors in the department of history of art and architecture; but there is also a minor in museum studies that we think will allow majors outside of art history, for instance in studio art, classics, sociology/anthropology, American studies and many other fields, to get formally acquainted with

museum work," said Broucke.

The addition of the museum studies track compliments other structural changes to the HARC department course requirements. Previously, senior HARC majors would take their senior thesis seminar alongside the "Methods and Theories course," which was also a required winter term course. With the changes, the two courses will be separated and there is no required winter term course, so that seniors may be able schedule another required class during this time or take on an internship in their final winter term.

"Some of our new requirements will give credit to approved internships so that students who go off and do internships will be able to build that into their major, which is an opportunity for students to mix on-the-ground and academic learning," Packert explained.

Sam Tolzman '14, who interned at the museum last summer, spoke highly of his internship experience.

"The internship was very rewarding because it gave me a great deal of responsibility," said Tolzman. "I was designing and installing exhibitions myself, writing wall text for exhibitions, gathering material from all staff members for the MCMA's annual report and doing research on pieces up for auction."

With the new changes to the HARC major, students will be able to count internship experiences like Tolzman's towards their major requirements.

"I myself am hoping to go into museum work one day, and as a literary studies major, I really wish this program had existed earlier so I could take advantage of it," Tolzman added.

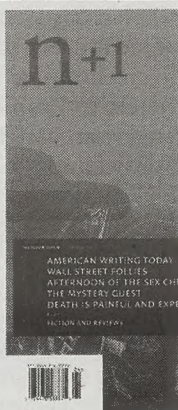
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College presents five honorary degrees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

jah Wood. Safran Foer has also published *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, the inspiration for an Academy Award-nominated motion picture. *Eating Animals* is the author's third international best-seller and a nonfiction account of his struggle with vegetarianism. In 2010, the *New Yorker* named Safran Foer as one of the 20 best writers under 40 years old. He teaches graduate creative writing at New York University and is working on another novel, *Escape from the Children's Hospital*.

Burtnsky, who will receive a Doctor of Arts degree, has a collection of photographs of quarries and quarry work, *Nature Transformed*, that is currently on display at the Middlebury Museum of Art. Burtnsky is an Ontario native whose depictions of global industrial landscape are included in the collections of more than 50 museums, including the Guggenheim Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the National Gallery of Canada and the Bibliothèque Na-

tionale in Paris.

Camp will receive a Doctor of Letters degree in recognition for her 30 years of work at Shelburne Farms, a 1,400-acre working farm, nonprofit education center and National Historic Landmark located near the College. Camp's work has helped create a process that resulted in Vermont incorporating the nation's first education standards for sustainability. Camp is a recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award for Environmental Education from the New England Environmental Education Association, the National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Education Achievement Award and the United States Environmental Protection Environmental Merit Award.

In addition, a Doctor of Humane Letters degree will be awarded to Novogratz, a pioneer in the field of impact investment. Under Novogratz, the nonprofit Acumen Fund has invested more than \$80 million in social enterprises, emerging leaders and

breakthrough ideas to solve the problems of poverty. Novogratz delivered the keynote speech at the launch of the College's Center for Social Entrepreneurship in January 2012.

Schwartz will receive a Doctor of Letters degree for his work as one of the world's leading scholars of Brazilian history. Schwartz has taught at Yale since 1996 and is the George Burton Adams professor of history and a professor of international and area studies. Schwartz's most recent work, *All Can Be Saved: Religious Tolerance and Salvation in the Iberian Atlantic World*, received numerous awards, including the 2008 Cundill International Prize in History and the 2009 American Academy of Religion Book Award.

The commencement ceremony for the class of 2013 will be held on May 26 at 10 a.m. on the Central College Lawn, located in front of Munroe and Voter Halls.

This article first appeared in our online edition on Thursday, March 14.



COURTESY OF PETER RIGAUD

Best-selling author Jonathan Safran Foer will deliver the commencement address for the class of 2013 on May 26.

Delta's fate heads to Liebowitz's desk

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with Liebowitz this week and ultimately appealing the decision, if it comes to that.

"We are going to tell [Liebowitz] why we should stay together as a social house and what Delta means to the community at large," said Lungo. "We had a petition of approximately 750 signatures of students supporting us and managed to get that in a week. The student body, at least a large portion of the student body, loves what Delta provides and it would be a shame to see it go away."

"I think the best solution would be to allow our members who planned to live there next year to continue to do so, without the title of a social house," wrote Battle. "This would allow the social benefits of the house to continue while also keeping tighter control of the issues the house has had in the past."

Lungo also expressed concern over the potential length of the appeals process; if it extends beyond the housing draw period students who are currently slated to live in the house next year may be forced into summer draw. He noted that the timing of this decision is "hard."

Collado and Adams confirmed that, pending Liebowitz's approval of the rec-

ommendation to disband Delta, Prescott would likely be offered as open doubles and singles for draw next year. In the years to come, though, the house could be used as a social house once again.

Adams explained that if students chose to re-form the organization in the future, and potentially petition for Prescott house, Community Council would be heavily involved in the process.

"Community Council would need to give some direction around what it felt was appropriate [for the space], and I think we [Community Council] would want to hear from Inter-House Council and what students would like to see in that space."

"I think that its imperative that both Palmer and Prescott are social houses in the future," said Smith. "The houses were built to be social houses and I would urge students to step up and form social houses. Students create the social life here and all it's going to take are the right students to step up, organize and create new social houses."

This decision comes on the heels of an extensive biennial review process of the social houses conducted by the Residential Life Committee, a body made up of

students, faculty and staff that holds the dual purpose of conducting the review process and providing a forum to address residential issues on campus. Delta leadership participated in three separate meetings with Adams and other members of the Residential Life Committee before the final recommendation was submitted to Community Council.

Adams emphasized the issues of dorm damage and unregistered parties as a prominent concern during these meetings.

"It didn't seem to the committee that there was a clear direction [from the Delta leadership] when it came to addressing the dorm damage issue," said Adams. "The methods that they decided to change [around addressing dorm damage led] to the second issue, which was unregistered parties."

"Generally there is going to be a lot of vocal heat for the decision, but I think that there is a diversity of opinion," explained Smith. "I think the supporters of Delta are more vocal, while people who do not support them have been more tacit."

Though this diversity of opinion made the decision difficult, Collado is confi-

dent in the integrity of the process.

"I have been deeply impressed by the thorough and thoughtful work of Community Council members as they made an important decision for the Middlebury campus community," said Collado. "In the end, I believe this decision was guided by strong data, serious reflection and a commitment to the College's Community Standards."

Lungo confirmed that he felt that the process was fair and professional, but that disbandment was not a solution to the larger issues on campus.

"[Community Council] failed to see the larger implications of shutting us down, and they wanted to blame us instead of looking at the larger culture of the school," said Lungo. "What was happening [at Delta House] was a product of the culture here at Middlebury, not us creating this culture at the school."

"I think that over the next few months and years the administration will see that they have not solved the problem, they have only displaced it to locations that are not suited to handle it," added Battle. "It could show very quickly that they have made the issue of the lack of social scene on this campus even worse."

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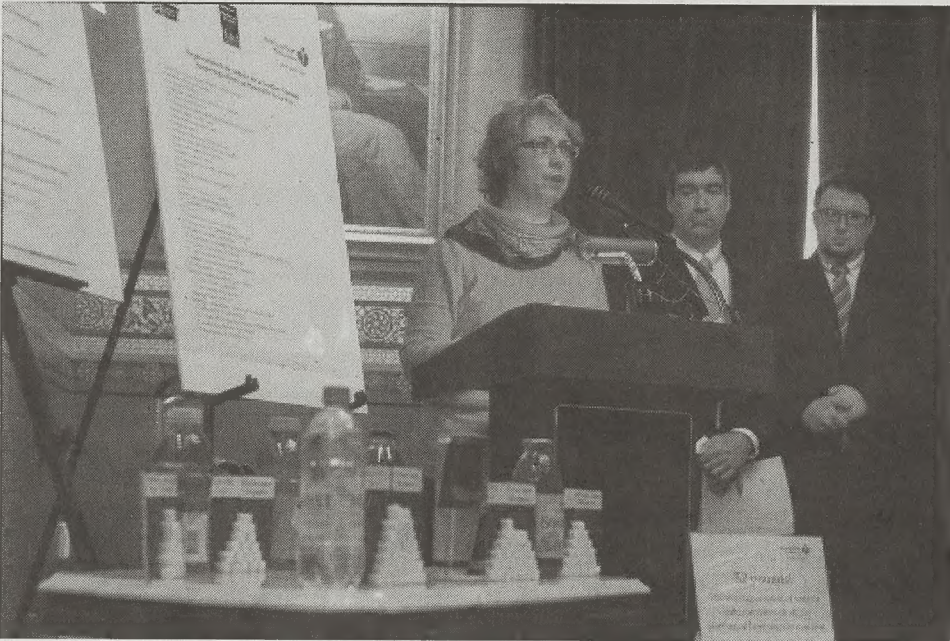
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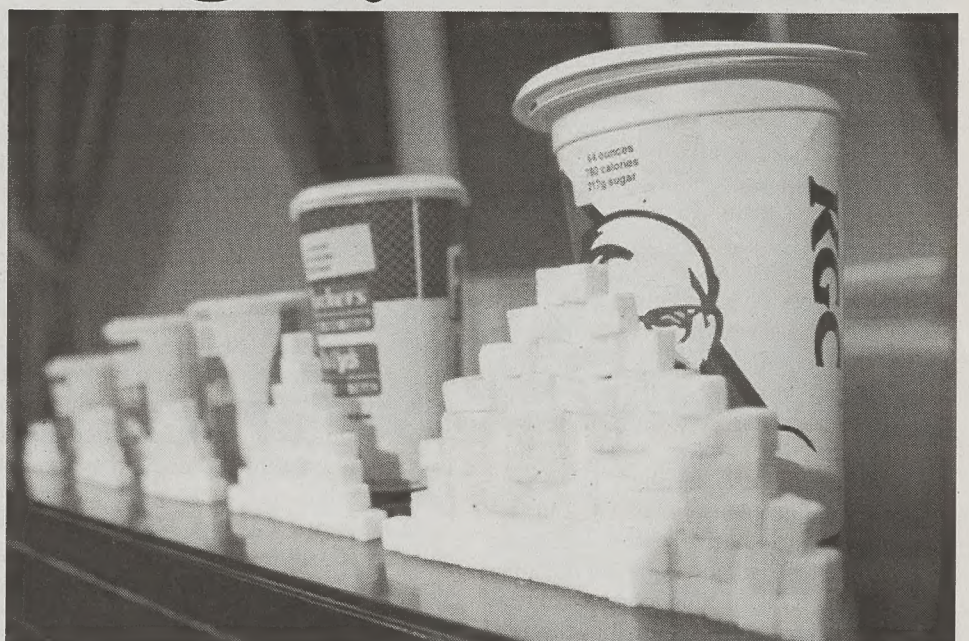
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Legislators debate sugary drink tax



VT DIGGER

The Alliance for a Healthier Vermont addresses the legislature to support the tax.



IGN.COM

Presenters stack sugar cubes next to popular drinks to show how sweet they are.

By Anna Stevens

On Wed Feb. 27 the highly debated bill that would impose an excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages was approved by the Vermont state House Health Care Committee with a vote of 7-4.

The bill was first proposed in December by lead sponsor Rep. Dave Sharpe of Bristol with the support of the Alliance for a Healthier Vermont, which is a coalition of over 40 organizations including the American Heart Association, the Vermont Medical Society, many Vermont hospitals and other advocates outside of and within the statehouse. The primary goal of the bill is to address the growing issue of obesity in the state. It defines sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) as any drink that has sugar, including high fructose corn syrup. The tax would not be imposed on water, diet drinks, milk products or 100 percent fruit juice.

"There is a growing scientific knowledge base and understanding that sugar-sweetened beverages are a major contributor to heart disease, diabetes, tooth decay and obesity and we need to do a much better job of educating and changing the behavior of Vermonters and Americans towards their consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages," said Sharpe.

Sharpe sees the proposed tax as an effective means of educating people on the risks of consuming sugary beverages.

"The approach that I took with the bill I submitted is to change behavior by creating a situation where it was more expensive [to buy sugar-sweetened beverages] than some healthier drinks," he said. "This would create the kind of price differential for people whose behavior with regards to buying beverages is shaped, at least partially, by price, as they would be encouraged to buy a cheaper beverage that did not have added sugar."

Currently 58 percent of adults and

almost 27 percent of children in Vermont are considered overweight or obese. The health care costs of obesity are estimated to be around \$140 million a year, with over 50 percent of Vermont's Medicare and Medicaid expenses attributed to obesity. Proponents of the bill see the excise tax as the next-best option for trying to combat obesity in Vermont.

Furthermore, a study done by Yale University found that imposing a penny an ounce tax could result in upwards of \$26 million annually in revenues. The revenues generated by the tax would be used in various places of need, but primarily for creating obesity prevention and education programs and for lowering the costs of health care for lower income residents.

Obesity has been a legislative concern for quite some time; in 2010 a bill of a similar nature did not make it out of the House Ways and Means Committee. Proponents of the bill believe that this excise tax will prove Vermont's commitment towards securing a healthier populace.

"Currently ranked as the healthiest state in the nation, passage of the sugar-sweetened beverage tax could show how Vermont has been the leader in public health it has been known for in the past," said Tina Zuk, government relations director of the American Heart Association.

DAVE SHARPE
VERMONT STATE REPRESENTATIVE

The bill targets sugar-sweetened beverages specifically, as opposed to other junk foods, because of the particular dangers associated with sweet drinks.

"Because they are liquids, the body processes sugary drinks differently and simply doesn't get full on them the same way it does with solids," said Zuk. "Combine this with the fact that they add calories to the diet with no or little nutritional value and they make up 50 percent of the added sugars in the U.S. population. They

are a sensible target for taxation."

Opponents to the SSB tax attack the bill from different angles. Andrew MacLean '76, a lobbyist for the Beverage Association of Vermont, believes that the tax "is purely a money grab allegedly for health care," but otherwise has little to do with health care. MacLean's primary concern is that, if the SSB tax is passed, purchasing and consumption of all beverages — not just sugar-sweetened — will decline.

"It will lead to a steep increase in the cost of all beverages, not just sugar-sweetened beverages," said MacLean. "This is because this is an excise tax as opposed to a sales tax, which is a six percent tax [in Vermont] that is applied to the product you are buying. An excise tax, meanwhile, is levied on the distributor. The SSB tax will be calculated by the amount of sugar-sweetened beverages that it sells. Distributors, therefore, would likely apply it to all beverages that they distribute."

Others opponents of the tax are wary because of the decline in revenue throughout the state. Governmental leaders, such as Governor Peter Shumlin and State Speaker of the House Shap Smith have both voiced strong concerns regarding the bill's impact on statewide revenues.

"From a revenue perspective the tax causes me some concern," said Smith. "A tax like this that is meant to alter behavior can also end up reducing consumption and therefore reducing revenue in the state, so I tend to dislike passing revenue sources that decline over time."

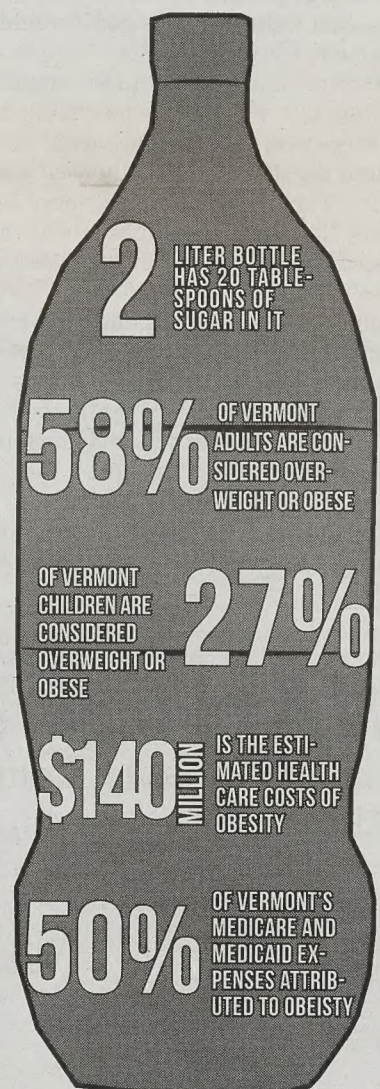
Many have compared the SSB tax to an excise tax that was imposed on tobacco. Proponents say that these taxes were successful in diminishing the use of cigarettes and raising funds to pay for educational programs used to deter Americans from smoking or drinking. Opponents of the bill, on the other hand, believe that the evidence used in support of this former excise tax was more conclusive than the evidence for SSB. Additionally, they believe the cost of altering behavior may be too prohibitive at this moment in time.

As of now the bill sits in the House Ways and Means Committee, where, according to Smith, the committee does not seem inclined to pass it. Instead, the state may have greater success passing a sales tax on sugar-sweetened beverages.

Although the sales tax would be mark-

edly different from the proposed bill, "it is a very small step in the right direction," said Sharpe, the lead sponsor of the excise tax bill. "I think it is a recognition on the part of the legislature that we have a problem and that the damage that's being done to our society and the costs that are being incurred in health care due to SSB are significant and we have to begin to address it."

The House Ways and Means Committee has not given any indication when they will decide on the bill, but it is expected to be voted on in the upcoming month.



LOCAL LOWDOWN

24

"The Philadelphia Story" on Screen in Vergennes

Get your weekly fix of cinema this Friday at the Vergennes Opera House with classic 1940 romantic comedy starring Katherine Hepburn as a spoiled and snobby socialite, Cary Grant as her ex-husband and Jimmy Stewart as a tabloid reporter who falls for her. The movie is part of the Friday Night Flicks movie series. For information call 802-877-6737.

MARCH 22, 7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Library Gala in Brandon

Come to the Brandon Inn this Friday to show your support for Brandon's own library. The main entertainment of the evening will be a reading from Vermont Poet Laureate Sydney Lea at 7:30 p.m. and the band Ten Rod Road playing from 8-10 p.m. The event will also feature a silent auction, used book sale and refreshments. This will be a two-day event that benefits the Brandon Library.

MARCH 22, 23 7 P.M. - 10 P.M.

Old Bones Fundraiser Concert in Bristol

Local gospel musicians will perform at the First Baptist Church of Bristol this Saturday to raise money for Village2Village Project, a small Bristol-based charity that supports more than 80 children and 15 HIV-positive widows in northeastern Uganda. All donations go to V2V. The concert will be preceded by church chicken pie supper at 5 p.m.

MARCH 23, 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

College Snow Bowl unveils revamped website

By Liia Koiv-Haus

This winter term, Jeff Dobronyi '13 and Oliver Sutro '14 lived every Middlebury student's dream: they spent nearly every day at the Snow Bowl. These avid skiers weren't simply there for fun, or even for work (although Dobronyi is on Ski Patrol and Sutro works at the Snow School). Both were hard at work, taking photos and compiling data for a new and improved Snow Bowl website. This website undertaking was the product of an independent project for course credit.

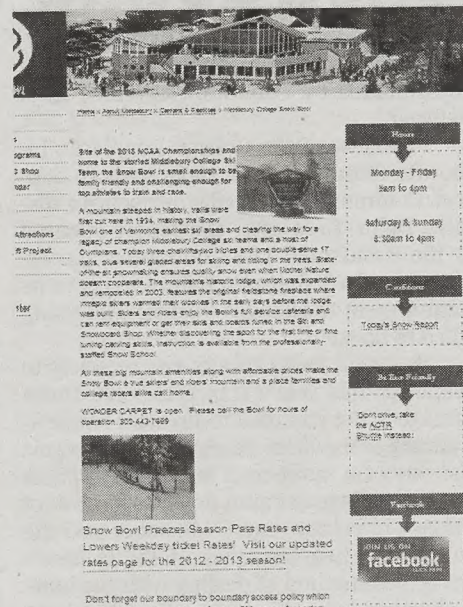
Dobronyi and Sutro started their respective winter term internships at the Bowl expecting to work on a new marketing campaign with one main goal: to increase revenue through ticket and season pass sales. They quickly realized, however, that any attempt at launching a new publicity campaign would be limited by the Snow Bowl website, or lack thereof.

"The old site is pretty terrible," Sutro said bluntly. "It gives people the im-

pression that the Bowl may not even be open to the public. There is no current media, no place to access current snow conditions except by signing up for daily emails."

Working in conjunction with other Snow Bowl employees, Sutro and Dobronyi determined that the Snow Bowl was losing possible customers because of its poorly-designed and lackluster website. They realized that attempts to advertise would invariably be limited by the outdated website. With this in mind, Sutro and Dobronyi came to the conclusion that revamping the Snow Bowl website was the single most important step towards updating the Snow Bowl's marketing campaign. So they decided to use their creativity and knack for photographing intense action shots of powder skiing to create a completely new website.

The new website took advantage of this winter's heavy snowfall to highlight some of the action photographs of powder skiing at the Snow Bowl. Considering the lack of snow in the 2011-12 season,



COURTESY OF MIDDLEBURY SNOWBOWL

Student interns helped the snowbowl upgrade its old site (left) for a new site (right).



COURTESY OF MIDDLEBURY SNOWBOWL

A student skier takes a turn in fresh powder at the college Snow Bowl this winter.

these powder shots could not have been taken last year. With the early closure last season leading to fewer season's pass purchases despite drastically improved ski conditions in the 2012-13 season, the Snow Bowl would have a lot to gain from this increased publicity. Tuesday's storm ensured that the ski season will continue for at least another week.

"The skiing last year was pretty marginal," said Anna Breu '15, who agrees the new website is an improvement. "The backside of the bowl wasn't even open, and that's where the best powder skiing has been this year."

Though creation of the website itself did not take very long, the site only went live this month.

"The website had been ready to go for a long time, but like most student-initiated projects at Midd, there was a lot of red tape," Sutro said.

Bill Burger, the newly instated vice president of communications at Middlebury with whom Sutro and Dobronyi worked, had just arrived at Middlebury and had a lot of additional work. But after emailing in circles, the

dynamic duo was able to find the right person in charge of Middlebury's server.

"Week three of spring term Bill finally gave us this guy's name and said 'go ahead to launch the site as soon as you want'," said Sutro.

Sutro and Dobronyi contacted the server administrator, but were further delayed. Now that the site is finally up, they are optimistic about the future of the Snow Bowl. They are convinced that once students and skiers see the photos taken over winter term, they will be persuaded that the terrain is not as limited as previously thought.

Sutro and Dobronyi's project is just the first step toward the re-imagined public image for the Snow Bowl. With the new website, the Snow Bowl hopes to attract more students and members of the general public alike.

Sutro, Dobronyi and the rest of the Snow Bowl are excited for the new website's potential.

"I want Midd kids to know about [the Snow Bowl]," said Sutro. "I want them to come to the bowl, shred the gnar and feel lucky to have their own mountain."

NCAA ski races bring business to Middlebury

By Erin Petry

Officials, coaches, corresponding staff and 148 racers traveled across the country to Middlebury this year for the NCAA Skiing Championships. Of course, with this influx of visitors also came an astounding boom in business for the Middlebury community. Andrew Gardner, Middlebury's nordic ski coach, noted that the event brought in an estimated quarter of a million in revenue to the area between lodging, dining and shopping, among other activities.

While hosting 21 teams was a great opportunity for the surrounding community overall, it was particularly beneficial for local hotels.

Accommodations for the athletes, coaches, officials and support staff began over a year prior to the event. General Manager of the Middlebury Inn Geoffrey Conrad explained that "Middlebury College and the NCAA came to us a year ago and we told them we'd love to be the host inn for the event."

Robin Vaughan, sales manager at the Middlebury Courtyard by Marriott, said that teams started booking rooms as early as March 2012; Conrad added, "Some of the larger teams such as Denver and Utah reserved their rooms immediately after the location decision was finalized." The smaller teams filled things in closer to the event.

The Middlebury Inn and Courtyard

hosted seven teams each, as well as a mix of fans and parents. Conrad noted that in addition to simply housing the athletes the Inn also "hosted a number of dinners and receptions" and "local restaurants were quite popular among the athletes."

Moreover, the event seemed to be held at an ideal time in terms of the community's tourism calendar. The fact that the Skiing NCAAs are held just as the commercial skiing season draws to an end and before spring traveling picks up is an added benefit for hotels and local businesses, explained Middlebury's Alpine Ski Coach Steve Bartlett. Gardner estimated that there were roughly 1,500 spectators at the nordic event on Saturday.

Vaughan remarked that a handful of other events such as Winter Carnival, Alumni Weekend, Fall Family Weekend and, of course, graduation, bring quite a few visitors to the area. "We always appreciate being partners with Middlebury College," said Vaughan.

While it is certain that these and a variety of other sporting events bring business to Middlebury, skiing events are especially beneficial. The extent to which the skiing championships benefit the community is usually high due to the duration of the athletes' stay. Bartlett remarked that ski teams stay in Middlebury for almost a week, which is typically much longer than other sports.

Conrad reiterated this point.



COURTESY OF SNIQUEAWAY.COM

The Middlebury Inn and other local businesses saw increased activity during NCAA's.

"Most of the teams came in over the second and third weekend and stayed through the following weekend, which is an unusually long time for a big event."

Organizing an event like the Skiing NCAAs is a massive production. Coach Gardner said, "It's an honor that Middlebury's been afforded only five times in the last quarter century and it reflects a lot of work."

All the added business that the event brought to Middlebury clearly would not be possible without the help and hard work of many community members. Just to name a few, Gardner noted that Terry

Aldrich deserves a ton of credit for his work. Additionally, Bartlett and Patty Ross "refused to let the little details get lost in the shuffle." Franklin Dean Farfar was also an immense help in hosting and organizing a banquet for roughly 300 people.

"Overall, this was a huge effort from many, many people and I'm grateful we've been able to host it," said Gardner.

Conrad summed up the event from a business standpoint: "In a nutshell it was a great piece of business for the town of Middlebury and we're very pleased to have been a part of it."

OPINIONS

The Middlebury Campus

Deconstructing the Delta decision

On March 18, Community Council voted to disband Delta. The decision came after the Residential Life Committee conducted its biennial review of Middlebury's five social houses. Delta was the only social house that the committee recommended for disbandment.

EDITORIAL

The editorial represents the official opinion of *The Middlebury Campus* as decided by the editorial board.

While disbanding Delta, formerly known as ADP, may seem like an unnecessarily dramatic move on the part of Community Council, the decision did not come out of nowhere. Delta membership failed to comply with the steps urged by the administration in order to avoid disbandment this academic year.

The Middlebury Campus

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In addition, Prescott house has already surpassed its \$1,500 annual dorm damage limit implemented by Community Council as of last year.

President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz therefore has a clear basis to support Community Council's decision to dissolve Delta. Even after the report released by the Residential Life Committee, the organization had multiple chances to prove its commitment to change — yet its leadership failed to do so.

However, Delta should not be solely to blame for this year's transgressions. Dorm damage is not confined to Prescott house — it occurs everywhere on campus. Prescott is just one of a number of large party spaces that the College has shut down as a result of damage in recent years — Fletcher and the Bunker are two examples. If the College's prescribed method of dealing with the issue — shutting down the spaces where the most damage occurs — continues to yield weak results, perhaps it is not the solution to the problem. It may even be the case that dorm damage is inevitable.

Whether this last statement is true or not, as it currently stands, the Community Council's policy does not overlook the unfortunate reality of the situation; by allowing for a certain dorm damage threshold, the College explicitly acknowledges that dorm damage will happen. Therefore, as students, we must uphold our end of the bargain. Accidents happen, but cutting loose does not necessitate breaking windows. We all must work to ensure that partying does not become synonymous with destruction, and

this responsibility does not just fall on members of social houses.

We must recognize that many students here — and not just those who are members of social houses — want the type of party scene that these spaces provide, and these students should not be vilified for preferring to socialize in this way. However, under the College's current restrictions, it remains unclear whether the typical "college" parties we grew up seeing on TV and in movies can exist in our community.

The disbanding of Delta will undoubtedly have some effect on Middlebury's social scene. Many of us took part in the typical first-year activity of trekking down to ADP or Tavern with a huge group of hall-mates in search of a stereotypical, big college party. And attendance at social house parties is not limited to first-years — judging by the overwhelming crowds that can be found in Ridgeline basements on any given weekend, social houses play a role in the social lives of a critical portion of Middlebury's student body and eliminating large party spaces will reduce weekend options for students.

In addition, with fewer large party spaces, students will likely hold smaller, less inclusive parties where they are unlikely to meet new people and likely to drink more irresponsibly, creating additional risk to students' safety. Instead of grabbing a beer in a basement of a social house, students may be driven to drink in small groups behind closed doors.

Weekend partying aside, Delta as an organization has historically had strong ties to the space as a residence. Administrators

have indicated that with the dissolution of Delta, Prescott house will likely serve as a regular dorm for the 2013-2014 academic year, comprised of singles and doubles, rather than be offered up as a superblock. We can anticipate that this change will affect the feeling of community created when organization membership and residence combine.

There are no obvious solutions to address these larger issues, and we are unsure as to whether removing Delta from the social scene will in the end yield any real positive change. Looking at the past few years, Delta's extensive dorm damage is likely a symptom of an overarching campus-wide problem.

The question that needs answering is, where do we go from here? How do we fill the void that Delta is bound to leave? It seems that some of this responsibility of ensuring that students can find a communal place to party will fall on the social houses still in existence. From the big picture perspective, however, it is clear that the onus for creating a healthy, functional social scene that still satisfies student preferences falls on all of us. The administration should ensure that its expectations remain realistic, and continue to help students remain aware of and capable of meeting these expectations. However, as students, we must fulfill our side of the bargain by respecting these expectations and making ourselves accountable. Respect for our surroundings and our peers cannot go by the wayside come Thursday night. Accidents are inevitable, but no one has a right to commit them.

Dialogue and diversity of thought

At the activities fair a couple weeks ago, I was wandering the aisles of clubs and organizations when I spotted a friendly face behind the College Democrats table. In his typical outgoing fashion, this friend shouted to me that I should come join the College Democrats. I politely declined, and when asked why not, responded that I was already a College Republican. I then approached the adjoining table, that of Feminist Action at Middlebury (FAM), and asked the club's representative about the organization. The representative answered my question briefly, but followed up her reply by saying, "I'm not sure this is the club for you." In all honesty, I don't remember what I said, if anything, but the representative then told me the next meeting's topic was abortion, and therefore she didn't know if I should be there. I wrote my name down on the email list and left.

This anecdote is not meant to launch a personal attack on the club member with whom I interacted, or to slander the organization as a whole (one of the co-leaders later profusely apologized to me for the incident). I also don't mean to highlight this interaction to make a point about the contradiction between ideas that are "liberal" and supposedly open-minded, that manifest themselves in exclusive ways — that is a dead horse. Instead, I want to use this story to address the nature of dialogue and diversity of thought in Middlebury culture.

It is a sacred aspect of the Middlebury education that we are able and encouraged to form our own opinions and stances and to share them with our peers. Far more valuable than our mere ability to frame our ideas, however, is our capacity to express them respectfully and responsibly. To articulate ideas decently, dissent respectfully and argue maturely is one of the most important lessons we should learn from our experience in this prestigious liberal arts

institution. We are encouraged to question our teachers and peers in class, to delve into topics about which we hold firm opinions and to speak up for issues that matter to us. But a great lesson has been by-passed if we Middlebury students, who fancy ourselves some of the most worldly, mature and intellectually elite college students in the country, have chosen instead to express our ideas with arrogance, self-righteousness and disrespect.

The privilege to think and speak freely is one that can be taken too far. Staunch and self-righteous in our own opinions, we act as though the articulation of our own opinions, however marginalizing and insulting they may be, comes before the attention to the beliefs and comfort of others.

There is a difference between agreeing with someone's thoughts and disagreeing, yet respecting, their opinion. Though we will inevitably disagree, the only way we can consider ourselves intellectual and upstanding students and eventual members of the "real world" is if we can acknowledge and value the ideas of those around us.

As much as we tell others and ourselves that we appreciate and embrace diversity — though of course this is a topic to be debated as well — we neglect to recognize one of the most important aspects of diversity: diversity of thought. It is others' thoughts, opinions and perspectives that have the strongest ability to broaden our own education and widen our outlook on the world in general and these that we must hear without assuming, labeling or belittling.

NOTES FROM THE DESK

Isabelle Stillman '16 is a features editor from St. Louis, Mo.

A RESPONSE TO HILLCREST GRAFFITI

As student organizers within the divestment campaign on this campus, we would like to make clear that groups that have been working towards divestment at Middlebury, including the Socially Responsible Investing Club, Divest for Our Future and Sunday Night Group, disapprove of the recent appearance of graffiti on the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest. We do not know who the perpetrators are, nor do we understand why it was done.

READER OP-ED

Student organizers for Divest Middlebury

We hope that productive discourse around divestment will continue to center on the issues themselves and will not be diverted by a small action taken by an unknown individual or group of individuals. Middlebury still has approximately 3.6 percent of our endowment invested in fossil fuels and approximately 0.6 percent invested in arms industries, and divesting is urgent.

We stand by our original goals of divesting our endowment from the fossil fuel and arms industries and are continuing our campaign while working closely with the administration and other campuses around the country.

Thank you,
Student Organizers for Divest Middlebury



Parade of coffins

Last week, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted along party lines to support a bill that would impose a ban on some assault weapons along with other measures aimed at reducing the likelihood of another tragedy like Sandy Hook. That bill, in all likelihood, will now die in the Senate. Even if it somehow survives the Republican tantrum that will inevitably come, it has zero chance of passing a House of Representatives held hostage by rabid constituents and lobbyists like the NRA's Wayne LaPierre.

I struggle to find words to capture the abiding sadness of this state of affairs. Each new massacre seems like it must be the final

APPLY LIBERALLY

Zach Drennen '13.5 is an opinions editor from Canandaigua, N.Y.

straw — that at last, we will come together and decide that even if we cannot agree on the exact prescription, something must change. Instead, we just watch a parade of coffins while we salivate over every twisted detail of the lives of the monsters that fill them with children. And when those lives have vanished into the dirt we do nothing but shout at each other as we buy even more weapons of war for our personal collections. We debate the mental status of the Aurora shooter while we do nothing and expect different results — the very definition of insanity.

Of course he was insane, as is any person who buys his 15 minutes with the blood of others. But at this point, who are we to judge? So we trot out poor Gabby Giffords, applaud her condescendingly and then ignore the plea that she has no choice but to deliver in simple, difficult bursts because the bullet hole through her head robbed the former Congresswoman of her power of speech.

Senator Ted Cruz, who has rapidly usurped Eric Cantor as my least favorite person in Washington, critiqued the bill by pointing out that as the First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech, the Fourth Amendment protects against unreasonable searches and seizures, and the Sixth Amendment promises a fair and speedy trial. But unlike the Republican party of today, none of these are absolutes. Freedom of speech ceases to apply when it can incite

harm, or in the case of slander or libel. The other amendments also have exceptions, especially in times of war. With the number of murders in Chicago alone far exceeding American combat deaths last year, this is no less of an emergency.

The Second Amendment also must have exceptions. We can debate whether an individual guarantee to own arms even exists outside of one's membership in a well-organized militia. Whether constitutionally-mandated or not, most reasonable people would agree that hunters and sportsmen should be able to continue enjoying those activities. Likewise, presumably even Cruz would agree that the right to bear arms does not include a nuclear weapon. A line must exist somewhere between muskets and missiles.

We should draw that line at assault rifles. There is little reasonable rationale for their private ownership, and their potential for harm far exceeds any use they might have. They are comically unnecessary for activities like deer hunting and less practical for self-defense than a shotgun or a pistol. They are weapons of war. Again, there are exceptions. Farmers in Texas sometimes

need AR-15s to shoot invasive hordes of feral pigs. But not a lot of other uses of that weapon immediately come to mind aside from mass murder. This

year in the United States there have been far, far too many of those.

It is unconscionable that we cannot agree to take action, that this bill is dead. Teachers are dead. Parents are dead. Kids are dead.

Kids are dead, and yet we cannot agree that maybe a background check that actually checks someone's background before handing them the power to cut the delicate thread of another's life would be the prudent thing to do. We cannot agree to take weapons of war out of our homes and off of our streets. Instead we cling to the doctrine of mutually assured destruction — that only when we all have the ability to take the lives of our neighbors at any second of any day do we consider ourselves safe. Instead, we hide behind the idea that since criminals can get guns on the black market, there's no value in restricting their sale. That ignores a simple fact with a simple fix: the guns used in Aurora and the guns used in Sandy Hook were purchased legally.

"It is unconscionable that we cannot agree to take action, that this bill is dead. Teachers are dead. Parents are dead. Kids are dead."

OUR GENERATION'S RWANDA?

Last year, President of the United States Barack Obama asserted in a White House press release that one of "America's greatest goals must always be to foresee, prevent and respond to genocide and mass atrocities." But last Friday marked the two-year anniversary of the Syrian civil war, a conflict that has taken between 70,000 and 90,000 lives and displaced one tenth of Syria's 23 million citizens. President Obama's response to this bloodshed has remained steadfast in its inefficacy. As Bashar al-Assad continues to indiscriminately slaughter his people at rates now surpassing 1,000 deaths per week and with tools now including chemical weapons, Obama merely raises his voice a couple decibels and furrows his brow with slightly increased disapproval. While the media's fatigue regarding the Syrian conflict may falsely imply that Obama's tactics calmed the bloodshed that dominated the news last fall, Obama's finger-shaking and ineffective sanctions have only enabled increased chaos and carnage.

Two years into the conflict, it is now clear that the Free Syrian Army lacks the cohesiveness to successfully oust al-Assad independent of Western help. As sectarian and Islamist groups battle for supremacy among the anti-Assad forces, the Syrian conflict seems less likely to be resolved than to devolve into another Somalia composed of quarreling warlords and thugs. Western inaction has driven increasingly desperate Syrian rebels to trade their beliefs and goals for armament, and liberal Syrian rebels favoring secular democracy now slowly lose power to the better-organized Islamist militias receiving funding and weaponry from terrorist organizations. Unless America can work with the liberal Syrians who have repeatedly requested our help over the last two years, Syria will either return to al-Assad's tyrannical and oppressive control, or become a safe-haven for the Islamist, anti-Western groups now threatening to dominate the conflict.

The United States must lead a responsible and clearly planned military intervention aiming to empower the Syrian factions amenable to Western aid and guidance. By training, arming and uniting these dependable partners of democracy, the West can prevent the continued power of Iran and Islamism in the region, while also ending one of the largest humanitarian crises of the 21st century. It may seem hypocritical for an anti-government-spending, libertarian like myself to demand expensive military action, but when we spend trillions of dollars building the world's most powerful military, we mustn't be hesitant about intervening to end innocent bloodshed and encourage new democracy. Nevertheless, an American intervention must focus not on removing al-

Assad from power through a military invasion, but instead on empowering and uniting Syrian rebels. We need to establish no-fly zones and corridors for humanitarian aid between Turkey and northern Syria so that the Free Syrian Army can have a stable and safe zone where they can solidify their political agenda and popular legitimacy. During the seemingly hopeless Bosnian genocide of the mid-1990s, a U.S. and NATO-led air strike bombed Serbian forces besieging Sarajevo and ended bloodshed in two weeks. The Syrian conflict will likely take longer to resolve, but as Senator Joe Lieberman testified to Congress, "civil wars we get involved in can be settled more successfully than civil wars where we don't get involved."

Certainly, the Syrian conflict is complicated, convoluted and unpredictable, with various factions fighting for supremacy and dozens of international actors vying to secure their own interests. But the complexity of such an atrocity should not be our excuse for remaining sedentary. *New York Times* columnist Roger Cohen sums up the effect of inaction the best: "Inaction spurs the progressive radicalization of Syria, the further disintegration of the state, the intensification of Assad's mass killings, and the chances of the conflict spilling out of Syria in sectarian mayhem." These trends must be halted. We cannot afford for Syria's increasingly sectarian conflict to spread into Iraq, Lebanon or Israel. We cannot afford an Islamist government that tolerates al-Qaeda in the Levant. We cannot afford another 90,000 civilian deaths. But we can afford an intelligently planned military intervention.

There are, unfortunately, a plethora of conflicts around the world which merit American assistance and intervention, but few could have as great a consequence in a region as vital to global stability, and none hold the same potential to transform into a massive regional conflict. The longer the United States remains deskbound in our disapproval of al-Assad's actions and support of the rebels, the less influence we hold over the future of Syria, and, more importantly, the longer the bloodshed will occur. One year ago, Senator John McCain declared: "We should be ashamed of our collective failure to come to the aid of the Syrian people." President Obama needs to prove himself worthy of the Nobel Peace Prize he received four years ago. Our generation must not remember the Syrian civil war as a tragedy of inaction, just as our parents' generation remembers the Rwandan genocide.

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Ben Kinney '15 is from Seattle, Wash.

Occupation — the censored word

It is not surprising that the word "occupation," was not mentioned in Dennis Ross's lecture at Middlebury College on Tuesday night. The word does not exist in the discourse of the Israeli government, it wasn't mentioned during the farcical elections for the Israeli Parliament recently nor does it exist in the language of American policy makers.

As Noam Sheizaf showed with his article on 972mag.com, Ross's agenda for the peace process accepted the Israeli leadership's conditions "before negotiations even began." There can be no peace process without acknowledgement of the reality of occupation and apartheid. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of justice."

Ross operates under a false assumption that Israel and Palestine are equal sides of a symmetrical conflict. In the same way that there has been no symmetry between white people and African-Americans

READER OP-ED

Amitai Ben-Abba '15.5 is from Jerusalem

during the past 500 years of European colonialism, thus there is no symmetry between Israeli occupiers and occupied Palestinians.

The everyday reality of racism, systemic inequality and brutal apartheid is purposefully ignored, clouded by statements about policies and the region's complexity. Perhaps after years of yielding so much power and influence, Dennis Ross is incapable of understanding life within a Palestinian refugee camp. What was particularly astonishing, however, was his misinformation about the reasons for which a refugee camp exists.

In an astonishing feat of deception, Ross blamed the Palestinians for maintaining refugee camps. He suggested that the Palestinians end the refugee situation and build houses in the "vast" spaces south of Bethlehem to house the refugees. He did not acknowledge that it is virtually impossible for a Palestinian to get a building permit from the Israeli Occupation Administration. He did not acknowledge that almost 1,100 Palestinians, most of them children, were displaced by housing demolitions in 2011 alone.

Most significantly, he ignores or is not aware of Israel's responsibility for Palestinian refugees. In the systematic ethnic cleansing of Palestine in 1948, over a million Palestinians were forced out of what Ross considers Israel. This continues today to be one of the most neglected acts of ethnic cleansing in the 20th century, and its aftermath of human

devastation still bears effect on the lives of millions in the Middle East and across the world.

In his version of the two-state option, Ross envisions a Palestinian state that is butchered and divided by gigantic, oppressive walls, with no control over resources (the separation barrier annexes the water aquifer to Israel) and no freedom of movement, very similar to the South African Bantustans during the Apartheid regime. He ignored the fact that the occupation of Gaza has never ended, despite the disengagement in 2005, and that IDF control over sea, land and air turns Gaza into the largest open-air prison in the world, still recovering from the deaths and injuries of thousands, and without a nonviolent avenue to transgress its pain. Having Ross share his agenda on campus is like having a speaker endorse South African Apartheid during the 80's.

But now, as Middlebury's environmental leanings lead it in Gulliver's steps to divestment from fossil fuels and arms manufacturing, we recall that we have divested from Apartheid, and that no pro-Apartheid speaker would receive a microphone in our halls in the same way that no white supremacist or eugenicist would. As we embrace the values of environmental justice, it is imperative we recognize that divestment from fossil fuels and arms manufacturing is the first step towards divestment from Israeli Apartheid.

The 15th article of the Principles of Environmental Justice asserts that "Environmental Justice opposes military occupation, repression and exploitation of lands, peoples and cultures, and other life forms." By claiming the principles of Environmental Justice as we move forward on divestment, we therefore take a step towards Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) on Israeli occupation. BDS is a nonviolent tactic and a global call, drawing from the struggle against South African Apartheid, to end the occupation. To engage in these efforts, join Justice for Palestine, the new student club, by sending an email to jfp@middlebury.edu. Continue the discussion at 4:30 p.m. in Dana Auditorium today with the screening of the Academy Award nominee *Five Broken Cameras* and the following discussion with Instructor in Arabic Ahmad Almallah.

Some define education as the ability of making connections between concepts. Middlebury students have made the connection between war on people and war on the climate. The same economic forces benefit from both. It is time to heed the call, listen to the voices of those oppressed by our endowment and by the figures of authority we somehow continue to welcome and take a step for justice. Coming back to Martin Luther King, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

"In his version of the two-state option, Ross envisions a Palestinian State that is butchered and divided by giant, oppressive walls with no control over resources and no freedom of movement."

The evolution of alcohol

I am a heavy drinker. According to Middlebury College, I fall squarely into the 11 percent of students that consumed 10 or more drinks in one sitting in the previous two weeks. How interesting. This has always been a topic I have been interested in, though lately it has become more of a fascination. Not me drinking — just the culture of it on campus. I need to start at the beginning to explain myself.

THE UNPOPULAR OPINION

Andrew DeFalco '15 is from Toronto, Canada

Now, even with the drinking age at 19, what I was doing was technically illegal and mistakes were made. I drank myself sick, I made bad decisions; I did all the things you would expect from a teenage boy. But, by the end of it all, these things stopped happening. Vomiting into toilets became less and less acceptable and beer replaced most of the liquor.

By the time I came to Middlebury, I would argue I was familiar with drinking. Understand my frustration when I arrived on campus as a new Feb last year only to find that lo and behold, nobody had any real alcohol experience. People had an innate fear of Public Safety when I was more worried about cops; others insisted on drinking liquor when I was more comfortable with beer.

People did dangerous things: it was terrifying to see people with no alcohol experience drinking vodka like water. It makes you want to scream, "you're doing that wrong!" Yet, my culture started to change along with this. It only took me two weekends of wandering between social houses to pull aside my roommate and say, "we need to start making our own fun."

My close friends and I got really "good" at drinking. We knew how to get alcohol

and how to avoid Public Safety. It basically meant consuming large amounts of liquor without playing music too loud and never having a drink in your hand. Not exactly a healthy culture.

Fast forward a year and we have grown up. We got bored with getting drunk in our room, but are still fairly disappointed with the noise and claustrophobia of social houses. Among my friends I would say yes, I drink a lot. I'm also male, 6'2, 175 pounds and eat large meals before any night I know I'm going to be drinking.

I can hardly say that the drinking culture at Middlebury is "good" or "healthy." Certain aspects I really enjoy. Public Safety as individuals are some of the most responsible and caring people I know on campus. Except for a few exceptions, they draw a good line between telling you to shut up because it is 2 a.m. and getting actively involved in what could potentially be a dangerous situation.

Yet, I feel torn because their job and the responsibility of the College is inherently one that contradicts itself. The question of how the school upholds its legal obligations while still fundamentally caring for its students will always be the heart of this debate.

My fascination with this subject comes to a head with a situation my social group dealt with recently. A friend was brought to our home on campus in an incredibly incapacitated state. Others in the room were sober; I was asleep. The crucial part of this story is that a friend of mine was able to assess the situation and, given his experience with alcohol, was able to determine "we need to call Public Safety and an EMT, now."

I am not sure he would have had this knowledge and confidence without having the somewhat tumultuous first-year drinking experience my friend group went through. It does not have to be this way. In all kinds of ways my experience could have gone terribly wrong. I wish it was not this way, and that this education through experience could be eliminated. I fear that given current college policies, this is not the case and the College maintains the unrealistic expectation of abstinence. With any luck, we can establish more candid discussions concerning how we imbibe and how the College chooses to act.

"I can hardly say that the drinking culture at Middlebury is 'good' or 'healthy.' Certain aspects I really enjoy."

Bridging the gap

Two years ago when we received the fat acceptance package from Middlebury, we were pleasantly surprised to find a letter encouraging newly admitted students to take a gap year. Yes, we individually thought, some reassurance for this wild, scary thing I'm about to do after high school. Unlike many students

READER OP-ED

Rebecca Geiger '15+1 is from Atlanta, Ga.
Mariam Khan '15+1 is from Waterville, Maine
Winson Law '15+1 is from Seattle, Wash.

in our high schools, we sent our deposit with a letter saying that we would defer admissions to college for one year. Like every other first-year student, we highly anticipated our arrival at Middlebury. We were surprised to find that there was no way to connect with the gap year students in our own class. Unfortunately, because there is no targeted resource base for gap year students at Middlebury, there was no support or community. In fact, the only way we knew if someone else took a gap year was by word of mouth or if it came up in conversation. Though we each had this shared experience, we were lost in the crowd and unable

to identify each other. While we arrive on campus in September like any other first-year, we also carry with us the unique challenges of reacquainting ourselves with academic and social life.

None of this is to say that we are better than our peers or that we deserve special recognition, rather, that we as a community can do a better job at welcoming gap year students. That's why we are forming an organization that will help gap year students transition to Middlebury. In the same ways that our campus has many organizations for people who share commonalities, our aim is to provide a similar space for those who have taken time "off."

We envision an arrival process in which gap year students feel like they have a community to connect with and branch out from. We see our organization as a resource base for all students to learn about taking time away before or during their Middlebury career. We imagine that one day, taking a bridge year between high school and college becomes the norm and not the exception.

Whether you took a gap year or not, help us build this organization. Come to our constitutional meeting today, Mar. 21 at 8 p.m. in Axinn 109.

Refuting Jay Saper

In last week's *Campus* article, "Arrested Students Protest 'Environmental Racism,'" Middlebury alum Jay Saper '12.5 is quoted as saying, "We've talked more about environmental racism

READER OP-ED

Jon Isham is director of Environmental Studies.

today — just today — than we have at a place where there is the longest-standing environmental studies program in history in America." What a curious comment. As the incoming Director of Environmental Studies, I met with Saper, Sam Koplinski-Loehr '13 and several other students in spring 2011, interested in their views on environmental justice and inviting them to follow up in ways they might find in-

"With his recent comments in the Campus, Saper displays his fondness for public, unsupported and simplistic claims."

teresting and helpful for our community. I never heard back from them. And readers should know that Saper was not an ES major and, since that one meeting, never tried to engage the ES program in any formal way. It would not be surprising then if he were unaware of recent changes in our program, including — just for starters — the launching of a new ES class, "Social Class and the Environment," taught by Hector Vila. With his recent comments in the *Campus*, Saper displays — yet again,

I am afraid — his fondness for public, unsupported and simplistic claims. As a recent alum, he could learn from current Middlebury students who roll up their sleeves and lead social change

by communicating with and listening to others, finding common cause and solidarity and thereby creating solutions.

LISTENING TO EGYPT

I got back from Alexandria, Egypt almost three months ago.

"Wow, you were in Egypt? How was it?"

"Incredible."

"Did you see the pyramids?"

"Yeah, can't miss 'em."

"Were you ever in danger?"

"No, the violence is pretty isolated."

"Was it crazy?"

"Yeah, man. Really crazy."

That's usually about it. As you can probably guess, my experience goes a bit deeper than any small-talk conversation will reveal. So, where to begin? I like to think I took in Egypt with my ears, so I'll tell a few things that I heard.

I heard the call to prayer echoing through the streets, broadcasted from loudspeakers affixed to mosque minarets. Five times a day, the enchanting song would ring out: "Allahu Akbar," or "God is great." Around 3:30 every morning, at least for the first month until I grew accustomed, I lay awake listening to the pre-sunrise prayer. I thought of the most devout of my friends rolling out of bed to pray on the floor in their rooms and I thought of the rest who, like me, pulled a pillow over their heads and tried to fall back asleep.

The incessant honking sometimes kept me awake too. Alexandria has no stop signs, so cars approaching an intersection simply honk their horns rather than slowing down. I picked up on the nuances of lawless driving after countless taxi rides. Cheap and convenient — like just about everything in Egypt — taxis provided my transportation to and from class every day. Fourteen weeks of class makes for 140 taxi rides, not to mention weekends. At 15 to 30 minutes a ride, depending on traffic, I spent at least a day and a half cruising through Alexandria in an old, Russian-made, yellow-and-black taxi cab.

I heard a lot of things on those taxi rides, each short conversation serving as an assessment of my language development. These abrupt introductions were characterized by polite but aggressive curiosity. The first question was almost always "Are you Muslim?" For girls, it was "Are you married?" Few topics are inappropriate for casual conversation. "I'm Christian," I would always reply. The truth is I'm agnostic, but it wasn't until I learned the words for "doubt" and "spiritual" that I was finally able to tell the truth to my new, taxi-driving friend. This driver, like many others, refused to accept payment from an honored guest in his country.

Abiding by my language pledge, I spent a lot of time listening. The more I listened, the more I understood. My greatest

triumph came one night while sitting in the dorm common room and watching television. I was quietly doing homework and hoping that the ambient newscast would seep into my brain through some sort of knowledge osmosis when a crowd joined me to watch a popular program. Modeled after Jon Stewart's "The Daily Show," this program presents topical political satire.

READER OP-ED

Students travel to study at the University of Alexandria from Cairo and rural towns in the Nile delta, representing every political opinion out there, from indifference to membership in the Muslim Brotherhood. On this night, they all watched as the show's host insulted Morsi. To say I understood half of what I heard would be an exaggeration, but the video clips he showed made his point fairly clear. The crowd's reaction varied; some laughed and others booed. An argument about the media and Islam unfolded before my eyes and I jotted down one evocative comment that, quite to my pleasure, I was able to understand: "This episode will bring him to his knees."

One night, with the country engulfed in protests over Morsi's declaration and escalation in Palestine, I listened as a small rally formed outside my window. In the dorm courtyard below, a crowd had formed in front of the mosque to hear someone speak in support of Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood. When I leaned out of the window to get a better look, I saw hundreds of others doing the same. Soon, people began chanting insults and throwing trash at the crowd below. I turned to my Egyptian friend and asked, "Why are they so angry?"

His response speaks to the nature of the current political and social turmoil in Egypt. "I don't know ... This conflict is dividing our country," he replied with a look of deep sadness. "We are all Egyptians," he said, echoing the nationalist slogans festooned around the courtyard below. Indeed, Egyptians have great pride in their "homeland," a term distinct from "country" or "nation" in the Arabic language, endowed with a sense of identity and personal stake. Some would portray today's Egypt as a nation crumbling under the weight of an irresolvable conflict of religious and political ideals. My experience suggests a different metaphor, one of more optimism: Egypt is bursting at the seams, unable to contain its citizens' desire for a better homeland. The popular revolution granted the people a voice, and I was lucky enough to hear it for myself.

The Middlebury Campus BE A PART OF A TRADITION

2013

2005

1997

1955

1945

THE
CAMPUS
HAS
PRINTED
FOR 107
YEARS.

JOIN US
FOR 108.

WHETHER YOU CARE
ABOUT POLITICS,
SPORTS, INVESTIGATIVE
JOURNALISM, THE ARTS,
FOOD, SCANDAL OR FILM,
THERE'S SPACE FOR YOUR
WORDS.

CAMPUS@MIDDLEBURY.EDU

CTLR

CENTER FOR
TEACHING LEARNING AND
RESEARCH

LAUREN DAVIDSON, MOLLY TALBERT AND ISABELLE STILLMAN

DESIGN BY OLIVIA ALLEN AND MAREK HATHEWAY

WHILE MANY MAY NOT VENTURE TO THE BACK OF THE DAVIS FAMILY LIBRARY, THERE IS A HIDDEN RESOURCE THAT REMAINS UNTAPPED TO ABOUT HALF OF THE STUDENT POPULATION. THE CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING (CTLR) PROVIDES A WIDE VARIETY OF SUPPORT, FROM PEER WRITING TUTORS TO INFORMATION ABOUT DRAFTING GRANT PROPOSALS, THAT CAN BE UTILIZED BY ALL STUDENTS.

DIRECTOR OF THE CTLR AT THE DAVIS FAMILY LIBRARY, KATHY SKUBIKOWSKI, HELPS IN ORGANIZING THE DAILY OPERATION OF THE CENTER. LAST YEAR, THE CLTR RECEIVED 4,800 VISITS FROM NEARLY HALF OF THE STUDENT POPULATION, A NUMBER THAT THE CENTER IS TRYING TO EXPAND FURTHER.

"PEOPLE OFTEN ASSUME THAT FRESHMAN ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO SEE WRITING TUTORS FOR HELP - THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT TRUE! I'VE WORKED WITH MANY UPPERCLASSMEN ON MAJOR RESEARCH PAPERS AND I'VE EVEN WORKED WITH A FEW SENIORS ON SECTIONS OF THEIR THESES. OUR TUTORS RECEIVE TRAINING IN WRITING ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES, SO WE CAN WORK WITH STUDENTS IN ALL SUBJECTS." — CHELSEA EDGAR '13

CAROLINE
'14
NUTT

HOW DO YOU HELP STUDENTS?

“ I USUALLY ASSESS THEIR EMOTIONAL STATE FIRST. IF THEY'RE STRESSED OUT AND HAVE A PAPER DUE THE FOLLOWING MORNING, I FIRST TRY AND CALM THEM DOWN AND ASSURE THEM THAT THEY WILL BE JUST FINE. MY MAIN GOAL WHEN HELPING A STUDENT WITH HIS/HER PAPER IS TO ENSURE THAT THE THESIS IS CLEAR AND THE PAPER FOLLOWS A COHERENT STRUCTURE. ”

HANNAH
'14
BRISTOL

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT BEING A TUTOR?

“ I LOVE MEETING STUDENTS WHOM I ORDINARILY WOULDN'T AND READING THE DIVERSE RANGE OF PAPERS. I'VE ALSO LEARNED ABOUT SUBJECTS IN WHICH I'VE NEVER TAKEN A CLASS FROM READING OTHER PEOPLE'S PAPERS, AND OCCASIONALLY I'VE READ PAPERS WITH IDEAS THAT BLOW MY MIND ... I THINK BEING A PEER WRITING TUTOR IS MORE ABOUT ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS TO PROVOKE THOUGHTS AND IDEAS THAN ANYTHING ELSE. SOMETIMES WHEN YOU'RE WRITING A PAPER AND ARE STUCK OR OVERWHELMED, YOU JUST NEED ANOTHER SET OF EYES OR YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK IT OUT WITH, AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR. ”

LAURA
'14
STROM

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT BEING A TUTOR?

“ I REALLY LIKE WORKING WITH THE STUDENTS TO IMPROVE THEIR WRITING. EVERYONE HAS UNIQUE STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES AND EACH SESSION IS DIFFERENT. BESIDES ENJOYING THE WORKSHOP/ REVISION PROCESS, BEING A PART OF STUDENTS' FIRST SEMESTER GIVES ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THAT TRANSITION A LITTLE BIT EASIER AND LESS STRESSFUL. ”

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

1 PEER TUTORS

AVAILABLE FROM 5 P.M. UNTIL MIDNIGHT SUNDAY
TRAINED STUDENTS ARE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS
CTLR IS CURRENTLY THE LARGEST STUDENT

2 PROFESSIONAL TUTORS

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE COLLEGE CAN HELP TO DIAGNOSE PROBLEMS. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE STUDENT WHO HAD NO PART OF HER EDUCATION WAS EXPERIENCING GAPS IN HER KNOWLEDGE. TUTORS CAN WORK WITH THESE STUDENTS.

3 INFORMATION

TIME-SAVING SCHEDULES AND STUDY HINTS
AVAILABLE AS WELL AS APPOINTMENTS FOR TUTORING

4 ESL

RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS WHOSE SECOND LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH

5 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

THE CTLR ORGANIZES THE SPRING AND SUMMER SYMPOSIUMS, ACCEPTS APPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH FUNDING, AND FUNDS CONFERENCES

6 COMMONS PEER WRITING TUTORS

PEER WRITING TUTORS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE COLLEGE
CHECK WITH YOUR COMMONS TO SEE WHO IS AVAILABLE

HEAD DROPS

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT BEING A TUTOR?

“ THE WAY WE HELP STUDENTS IS LIKE TO US. WE SHOW ALL STUDENTS THE SAME STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES AND EACH SESSION IS DIFFERENT. BESIDES ENJOYING THE WORKSHOP/ REVISION PROCESS, BEING A PART OF STUDENTS' FIRST SEMESTER GIVES ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THAT TRANSITION A LITTLE BIT EASIER AND LESS STRESSFUL. ”

RCS AVAILABLE

IGHT SUNDAY THROUGH THURSDAY,
ANSWER QUESTIONS AND HELP WITH ESSAYS. THE
THE LARGEST STUDENT EMPLOYER ON CAMPUS.

RS

AN HELP TO DIAGNOSE MORE LONG TERM

UDENT WHO HAD NOT TAKEN MATH CLASSES FOR
ENCING GAPS IN HER MATH BACKGROUND. THESE
RK WITH THESE STUDENTS TO FILL IN THE GAPS.

AND STUDY HABITS INFORMATION ARE
OINTMENTS FOR TIME MANAGEMENT SESSIONS.

ITS WHOSE SECOND LANGUAGE IS ENGLISH.

RESEARCH OFFICE

AND SUMMER SYMPOSIUMS, ACCEPTS
D FUNDS CONFERENCE TRAVELS FOR STUDENTS.

WRITING TUTORS

E THROUGHOUT THE WEEK IN COMMONS OFFICES,
COMMONS TO SEE WHEN TO GO IN FOR SOME HELP.

HEAD DROP-IN TUTOR

**CHELSEA
EDGAR**

WHAT DOES THE WRITING TUTOR PROGRAM DO?

“THE WRITING TUTORING PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO
HELP STUDENTS BECOME BETTER WRITERS. AS WE
LIKE TO SAY AT THE CTLR, “WE DON’T FIX PAPERS;
WE GROW WRITERS.” STUDENTS CAN COME TO US AT
ALL STAGES OF THE WRITING PROCESS. THE DROP-IN
SHIFTS ARE DESIGNED TO GIVE STUDENTS SPECIAL-
IZED, ONE-ON-ONE FEEDBACK ON THEIR WRITING.
A TYPICAL SESSION USUALLY LASTS AROUND HALF
AN HOUR, BUT WE WILL WORK WITH A STUDENT FOR
AS LONG AS IT TAKES TO MAKE HIM/HER FEEL LIKE
WE’VE ADDRESSED ALL OF THE IMPORTANT ISSUES
IN THE PAPER. WE HELP STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE
BEST WAY TO SAY WHAT THEY WANT TO SAY.”

ACTING AS A “CENTER”

THE CTLR WORKS FREQUENTLY WITH THE FACULTY TO BETTER STREAMLINE IN-
FORMATION BETWEEN STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS. ADDITIONALLY, ADMISSIONS
GIVES THE CLTR INFORMATION REGARDING STUDENTS WHO WILL POTENTIALLY
RUN INTO CONFLICTS, LIKE STUDENTS WHO SHOW INTEREST IN PRE-MED, BUT
HAVE NOT TAKEN A RECENT MATH COURSE.

SKUBIKOWSKI BELIEVES THAT CONTINUING A CONVERSATION BETWEEN STU-
DENTS AND PROFESSORS CAN LEAD TO A GREATER ACCESS OF INFORMATION.
“WE LIKE TO HAVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT TEACHING GOING ON AT THE SAME
TIME WE’RE HAVING CONVERSATION ABOUT LEARNING GOING ON BECAUSE THEY
ARE RELATED SUBJECTS,” SAID SKUBIKOWSKI. “I THINKING WERE WONDERFULLY
POSITIONED AT THE CROSSROADS OF BOTH OF THOSE THINGS.”

FACT VS. FICTION

“4,600 VISITS IS A
LOT,” SAID SKUBIKOWSKI. “WHAT WE’RE
CONCERNED ABOUT IS REACHING THE RIGHT
PEOPLE. THE PEOPLE WHO DO NEED US CAN
FIND US. WE’RE TRYING TO KEEP TRACK
OF WHO IS DROPPING OUT OF COURSES OR
CHANGING MAJORS BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS.”

POSSIBLE REASONS SOME STU-
DENTS NEGLECT TO USE THE RESOURCES
AVAILABLE AT THE CTLR ARE THE MYTHS
SURROUNDING ITS USE. SKUBIKOWSKI
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MANY BELIEVE THAT

“NOT MANY STUDENTS USE THE TUTORING
SERVICES” AND “ONLY FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS
USE TUTORING.” SKUBIKOWSKI AND THE
WORKERS AT THE CTLR ARE ATTEMPTING
TO COMBAT THESE MYTHS BY CONDUCTING
RESEARCH ON THE KIND OF STUDENTS WHO
COMES IN FOR HELP.

LAST YEAR, 44 PERCENT OF THE
STUDENT BODY USED CTLR TUTORING SERVIC-
ES AND 53 PERCENT OF THOSE VISITS WERE
MADE BY UPPERCLASSMEN

With the current version of the honor code under review, CTLR tutors are trained to
work within the limits of the code. Skubikowski said that they have not had any problems with
the honor code in the past and that tutors are trained to act as the “authorized aid.”
“The tutors will not tell you what to write, they will not give you information. They are
supplementing the instruction in the classroom or the expectation that are coming from the
classroom.”

TASTE CHEESE CHOPSTICKS



BY JIAYI ZHU

The theatre department production this year is called *Undressing Cinderella*, which will take place in Wright Theatre in April. Two weeks ago, the theater department, collaborating with the comparative literature program, presented Cinderella Symposium. At the symposium, Professor of Chinese Carrie Reed and Visiting Assistant Professor of German Roger Russi introduced the crowd to several unconventional versions of a familiar fairytale, Cinderella.

Reed started the symposium with an ancient Chinese story, Ye Xian. The story was recorded in the ninth-century compilation *Miscellaneous Morsels from Youyang* about a millennium before the European Cinderella story. Children were not the readers of Ye Xian story, instead, only educated people who can understand ancient written Chinese were able to read the story.

I've never heard of Ye Xian before, but I read Cinderella when I was four. Translated storybooks from the West were an important component of my early reading. Back in early 90s, instead of watching TV, I preferred listening to story-telling tapes, because my parents were too busy to read any story. I repeatedly listened to *The Little Mermaid*, *The Princess and the Pea*, *Snow White*, *The Frog Prince* and a lot of other stories from Hans Christian Andersen and the Brothers Grimm, and was able to recall any subtle details of those fairytales.

Fairytales, however, are only one kind of children's book. Besides textbooks, in college I probably spent most of my money on children's books: Robert Sabuda's and David Carter's pop-up books, as well as Roald Dahl's and Dr. Seuss's classic collections. I could not stop myself from clicking the "Buy now with 1-Click" button on Amazon when I see those vibrant and catchy covers of the books.

There is inevitably some educational purpose embedded in children's books, but it is more interesting to understand those moral rules and restrictions from reading imaginative stories than reciting behavioral criteria.

What was the reading life of children in ancient China like before the translated versions of western storybooks came out? They were probably reciting Confucian classics. They needed to recite those classics in order to stand out for the imperial examination. My 90-year-old great grandpa once told me that childhood is the best time of our life to recite those classics because then we will remember every single line of them forever afterwards. He iterated a long Tang dynasty poem to convince me, and I was amazed at his memorization.

But there must be something other than reciting classics to compose the childhood of ancient Chinese people. Diving deep into my childhood story list, I noticed some Chinese folktales and legends. Although it is hard to find any copy of those traditional stories in bookstore nowadays, they exist in oral tradition. I like listening to story-telling tapes, but I enjoy lying down and listening to my grandma's stories even better. I asked ridiculous questions and she made up the answers. Comparing to the love of a prince and a princess, the love being portrayed in Chinese legends is less predictable, such as the love between an ordinary man and a white snake spirit who transformed into human beings in *Legend of the White Snake*.

Love between different classes and different creatures is acceptable and even admirable. In that sense, ancient China is more modern and unorthodox than Europe at the same era.

A day in the life: Jonathan Blake

By Carly Anderson

Boasting 6,000 square feet of gallery space, the Middlebury College Museum of Art represents an invaluable part of the College's academic and artistic resources. To maintain this integral part of campus and the greater Middlebury community, the museum employs a diverse array of staff members whose responsibilities range from curatorial work to security duties. These dedicated individuals work throughout the year to organize and facilitate the museum's various feature exhibitions as well as the permanent collection. One such individual is Jonathan Blake, a soft-spoken and warm museum security monitor whose services and commitment to the school extend far beyond his duties as a museum monitor.

Holding positions in various departments around campus on and off for the past 20 years, Blake has worked for media services,

assisting with technical audio and visual work, as well as the library, supervising the circulation desk. Now a museum security monitor, a job he has held for about eight years, Blake expanded, "a monitor's main function is related to making sure the art stays safe and that people interact with the art in ways that help preserve the works."

Although monitor duties include physically supervising the museum's various galleries and exhibits, in addition to watching surveillance footage, Blake acknowledges the educational aspect of his work too.

"We want to make sure that visitors have good experiences so in that way our role is very educational," he said.

Blake, born in what he fondly refers to as Vermont's "inverted sister state — New Hampshire," describes himself as "someone who loves art and has gone to many museums," a hobby he has pursued since his childhood. Cognizant of museum culture and etiquette from a young age, Blake admitted, "The thought of being so close to an object [in a museum] that you would touch it is very alien to me."

However, the College's museum-goers sometimes wind up very close to pieces, accidentally touching objects.

"We have some works that are very old and fragile," said Blake. "We don't want to take any chances that threaten the integrity of the art."

To ensure the art's safety, Blake must remind viewers to abide by certain rules. He sums up the way he approaches these encounters by stating, "It's more of a corrective, suggestive way of saying that we care very much about this [art] and want to preserve [it] as long as we can, and most people understand."

Because of his passion for art while growing up, Blake earned an undergraduate degree in the fine arts, with a focus in photography, from the University of New Hampshire. While at school, Blake

served as the photo editor for the university's newspaper and yearbook, kick-starting a career and lifelong interest in photojournalism. Blake's nearly two decade-long involvement at Middlebury represents only a small portion of his vast work experience.

"I used to be the photographer for *The Addison Independent*, a local newspaper, I was in charge of photography at *The Portsmouth Herald* in New Hampshire for a couple years, and I've done freelance work for *The Boston Globe* and the *Associated Press*," he said.

Perhaps most interesting, was Blake's stint on former president George Bush Sr.'s "death watch," stationed at Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire, Blake would wait for Air Force One to land, his camera ready to capture any potential mishaps on the runway.

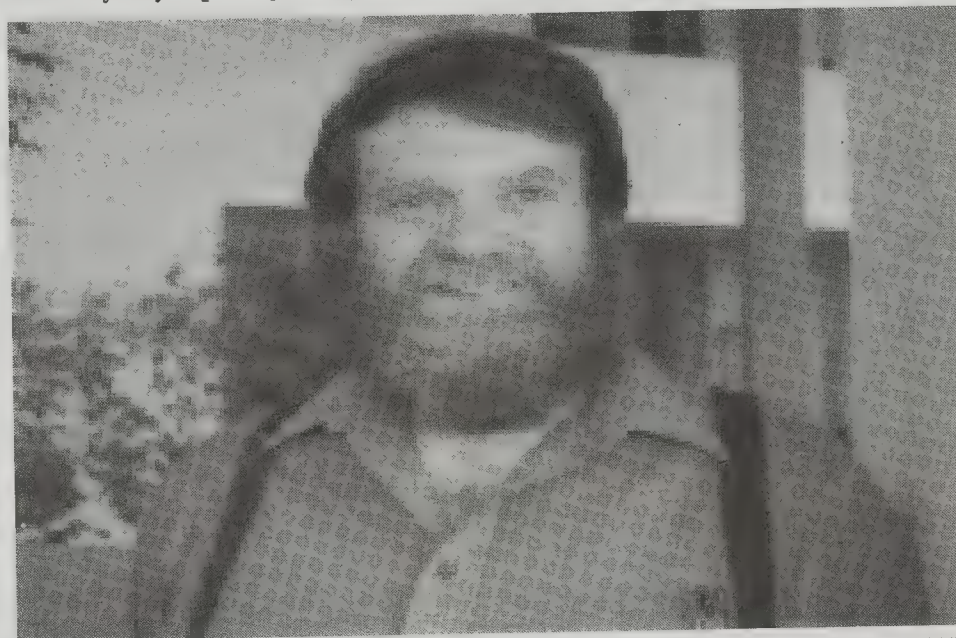
With such varied work experience, Blake contributes his expertise to Middlebury not only as one of the museum's security monitors, but also as a freelance photographer.

The museum has used Blake's photographs for installation purposes, to document and highlight certain works on display or visiting exhibits.

"I try to photograph things in a telling but also interesting way, so it's both documentary and artistic at the same time," said Blake about his approach to photography. Blake also adds to the museum's coverage by capturing images at special museum events like the openings of new exhibitions.

The museum hosts six to eight temporary exhibitions every year, a feature which has allowed Blake to closely observe and interact with a wide spectrum of artwork in many different mediums. When asked about his favorite or most memorable exhibit at the museum, Blake replied, "The Edward Burtynsky exhibit right now is one of my favorites ... [because it] combines my passions for the visual arts and the environment."

Burtynsky's photographs comment



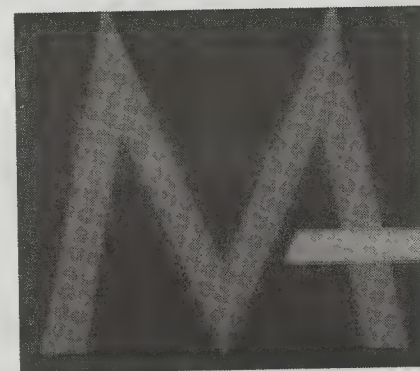
COURTESY OF MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Blake is a jack-of-all trades who monitors the museum yet is a photographer himself.

"I try to photograph things in a telling, but also interesting way, so it's both documentary and artistic at the same time."

JONATHAN BLAKE

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM EMPLOYEE



The Middlebury College Museum of Art

on the geological and cultural history of Vermont with their depictions of the state's quarries, an exhibit, which Blake appreciates for both the technical aspect of Burtynsky's photographs, in addition to the images' implicit social commentary.

Personifying the Middlebury spirit, with his varied interests and penchant for the visual arts, Blake calls the College a "cultural oasis" surrounded by a diverse landscape, overall a "wonderful workplace." Blake takes advantage of all Middlebury has to offer, attending talks and lectures as well as using the fitness center.

"The work-life realm is so interesting here," he commented. However, perhaps closest to Blake's heart are the remarkable opportunities the museum offers to students and the public. Blake explains this invaluable relationship by citing Professor and Associate Curator of Ancient Art Pieter Broucke's introductory speech for the Burtynsky exhibit: "the museum is the largest classroom on campus."

CURRENTLY FEATURED AT THE MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART:
NATURE TRANSFORMED:
EDWARD BURTYNSKY'S
VERMONT QUARRY
PHOTOGRAPHS IN CONTEXT
FEB. 8 TO APRIL 21, 2013

WINNERS
LOSERS

SPRING BREAK

Don't collapse before it gets here!

100 DAYS

Try 65 days left ...

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Two straight days of fun.

MARCH SNOW STORM

Haven't we had enough? Give us sun!

100 DAYS

A not-so-subtle reminder that you have limited time left to spend time with that special senior.

MIDTERM EXAMS

They suck, but isn't every test at Midd sort of like a midterm?

WATER SYMPOSIUM ADDRESSES GLOBAL WATER SUPPLY CRISIS

By Julia John

Today the world faces a water crisis of unprecedented gravity. According to the U.N., 85 percent of the global population lives on the driest half of the earth and water is estimated to become scarcer with the projected increase in population. Yet as population expansion and development raise the demand for water, climate change rapidly diminishes its supply by melting the glaciers and snowcaps of the planet's greatest freshwater reservoirs at record rates.

In light of this crisis, from March 14 to 16, Middlebury College's Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs hosted its First Annual International Conference, titled "The Politics of Freshwater: Access and Identity in a Changing Environment." The event brought together interdisciplinary scholars from national and international institutions to speak from varying perspectives regarding the processes that affect access to freshwater, such as climate change, land use, damming, privatization, commoditization and pricing. The symposium also focused on strategies to improve human interaction with vital freshwater around the world. The talks aimed to analyze these matters historically as well as with a view toward successfully addressing them in the present.

The symposium was co-sponsored by the Christian A. Johnson Economics Fund, C.V. Starr Middlebury Schools Abroad, the Program in Environmental Studies, Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest, the Departments of English and American Literatures, Classics, Geography, Political Science and the Rohatyn Center.

Professor of Geography and Director of the Rohatyn Center Tamar Mayer, identified five reasons that the politics of freshwater was selected as the topic for the inaugural symposium. First, water is the source of life for all organisms on earth. Secondly, water serves as an im-

portant aspect of different cultural and national groups across the world. Third, the politics of water have sparked a great amount of conflict in recent years, and the possession of water has become an economic commodity as well. Fourth, the access to freshwater is an unmistakable source of conflict across boundaries and cultures as well as within local and regional situations. Finally, the UN has designated 2013 as the international year of water cooperation.

In her opening remarks, Professor Mayer elaborated on the purpose of these conferences.

"The idea is to have an annual conference on a global theme that can be discussed from multiple disciplinary perspectives and can both contribute to our International and Global Studies (IGS) curriculum and connect our campus to C.V. Starr-Middlebury Schools Abroad," she said. "To this end, we have invited scholars from the social sciences and the humanities as well as policy makers and engineers in the field of water management."

The symposium welcomed scholars and academics from Dartmouth, Oberlin, Wellesley, Colgate and Universidad de La Rioja (La Rioja, Spain).

The water symposium ties into one of the IGS spring capstone seminars concerning water, as well as to a teleconference on the same subject that Arabic students on campus have had with

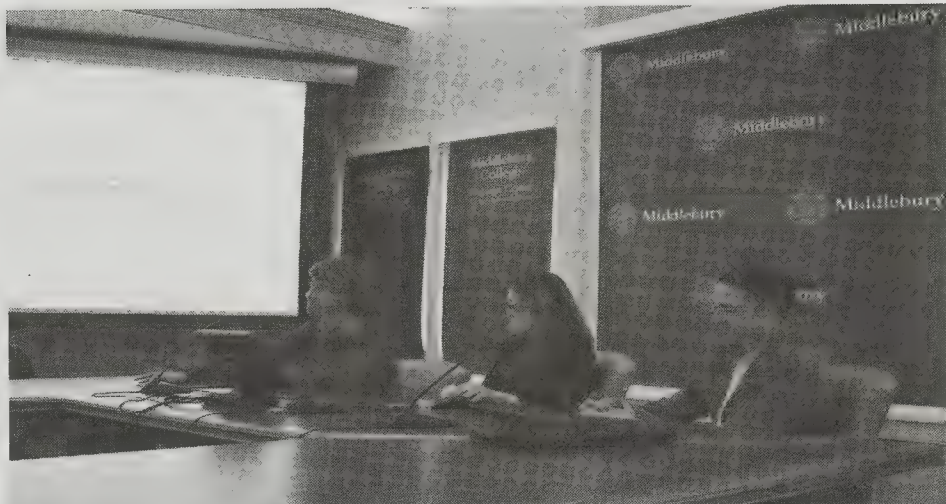
Middlebury students studying abroad in Jordan.

"We want to bring the entire campus to the Rohatyn Center through these events," said Mayer. "We want the arts, social sciences and humanities

MARJELLA BASIJ-RASIKH '15
WATER SYMPOSIUM ATTENDEE

to come together to talk about these issues."

In the four days preceding the three-day conference, Middlebury students and faculty participated in presentations pertaining to water, featuring representatives from non-profit organizations and Middlebury and Monterey Institute



COURTESY OF MARIA CALAHORRANO

Panel members at the symposium on the politics of freshwater last week address questions of access, sanitation and conflict surrounding freshwater world-wide.

of International Studies students and faculty involved in water research. Robert Hoesterey, Director of Strategic Development of The Eden Projects, spoke on Wednesday about his work in Ethiopia and Madagascar decreasing poverty through deforestation projects.

On Thursday, photographer Edward Burtynsky gave a lecture about his exhibit "Nature Transformed," currently on display in the Middlebury College Museum.

On Friday, the Robert A. Jones House hosted three different panel discussions, titled "Water Divided," "Changing Water and Land Use" and "Water Territories," with a number of visiting professors.

Two more panel discussions were held on Saturday, "Sustaining Multiple Uses of Water" and "Access to Water and Resistance." The conference came to a close on Saturday afternoon with a summary and concluding discussion.

The organizers of the symposium, Mayer and Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies Catherine Ashcraft, began planning for the event last July. They envision that the College will continue holding such annual interdisciplinary international conferences, and have chosen other global themes to discuss in subsequent years.

Professor Lina Abu-Ghunmi, from the University of Jordan, who gave a talk called "Grey Water Concept Toward Mitigating Water Shortage" and specializes in wastewater treatment, noted the significance of the symposium.

"We're focusing on different scientific fields and bringing together econo-

mists, sociologists and engineers and looking at different situations all over the world," she said.

Monterey Professor Pushpa Iyer spoke about "The Politics of Muddled Waters in Gujarat, India: Environmental, Economic, Social, and Cultural Influences."

Iyer, whose expertise includes identity conflict and South Asia, said of the symposium, "This is wonderful. It's the right size for meaningful interaction to happen. It gives us the opportunity to connect with scholars and really get to know their research." With respect to the freshwater problems confronting the planet, she stated, "Sociocultural and political challenges dominate. Water is not just a resource that needs to be managed. It involves layers of complexity that make arriving at one solution hard, but these difficulties have to be analyzed to effectively deal with the issue."

Marjeela Basij-Rasikh '15 attended the symposium and believed that the conference was a crucial event to take place, especially in a liberal arts environment.

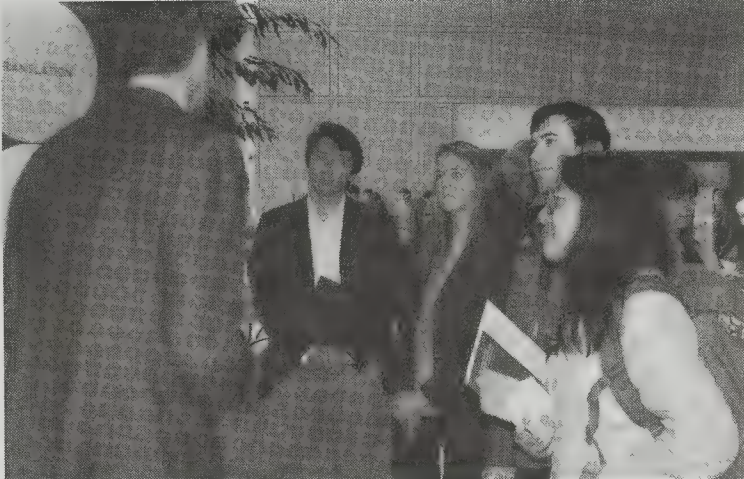
"It was very inclusive, encompassing even the social and spiritual aspects of water," she said. "We care about the environment a lot on campus, so we need such insights from people who are experienced in the field. It allowed me to understand how individual participation matters and how I could take action. I encourage more students to take advantage of future conferences."

SENIORS PERUSE CAREER OPTIONS AT EIA-SPONSORED JOB FLING



COURTESY OF THE EDUCATION IN ACTION OFFICE

On March 13, the Middlebury Center for Education in Action (EIA) hosted a Spring Job Fling in the Great Hall of McCardell Bicentennial Hall. The space was packed with 17 different employers and representatives from graduate schools for this ninth annual event. The event showcased the wide variety of choices that seniors have post-graduation, from education, non-profit, international affairs, health care and business companies and schools. It was also a good opportunity for seniors to practice interacting with potential employers.



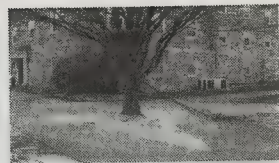
MIDDLEBURY
CENTER FOR
EDUCATION
in ACTION

EIA

ARTS & SCIENCES

The Middlebury Campus

Learn about tree vandalism, a serious problem on campus
Page 18



Ecstatic storytellers tune in to radio drama

By Ben Anderson

"Ladies and gentleman of Radio Land, it is six o' clock. The sun has set. Soon darkness will be all around. Yes it is six o'clock and evening has fallen, an evening of thrills and suspense."

For nearly eight years, every Saturday night, these words have been broadcasted from WRMC's radio tower, the introduction to Middlebury Radio Theater of Thrills and Suspense (MRTOTS). Situated between two music shows more typical of WRMC, MRTOTS is the College's very own live radio theater group, performing a two-hour collection of plays — some of which are student originals — each week.

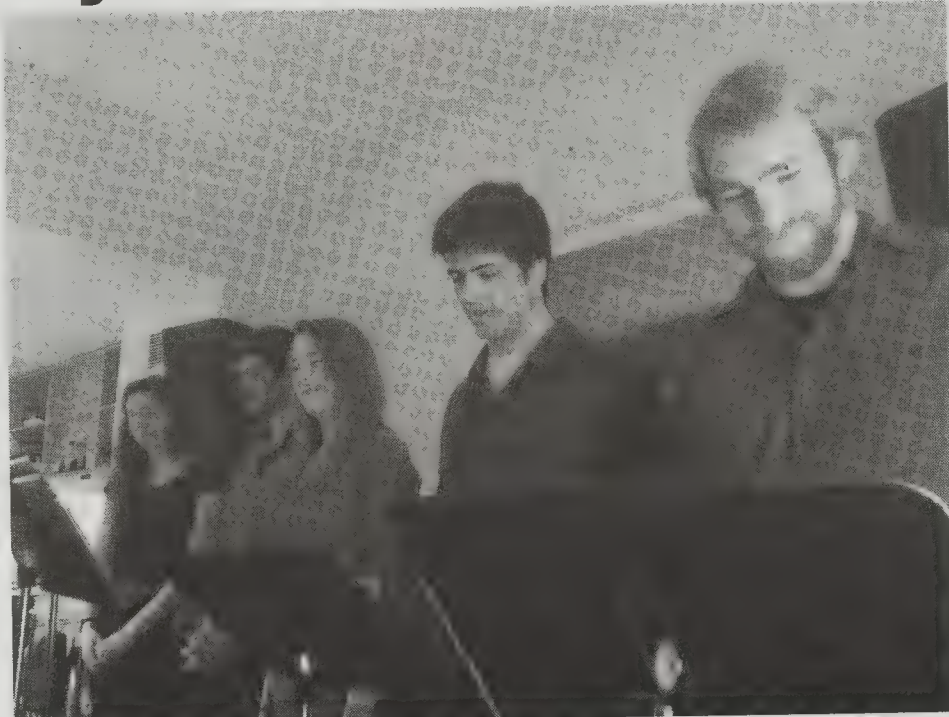
Even with a group of 10 to 20 regular performers, the cast is never consistent, rotating each week to accommodate whichever actors volunteer to perform for that episode.

"Since we do multiple scripts in each episode," David Seamans '13, one of the group's "co-dictators," said, "we make a point of casting evenly each week and assuring that everyone who shows up get at least one role."

When Seamans and the two other dictators, Brigit Carlson '13 and Michael Davies '15 refer to themselves as such in a casting email, I didn't think twice about it. But sure enough, they use it as their official title.

"We like to think of ourselves as democratically elected dictators," Davies said when I showed up to the WRMC studio last Saturday night.

Dictators only in name, the three run the club with fantastic efficiency. Each week, three to five plays are selected, the casting call goes out and actors are given their parts. Rehearsal takes place on the



MRTOTS actors (right to left) Sarah Baldwin '15, Ben Mansky '15, Brigit Carlson '13, Michael Davies '15 and Dave Seamans '13, prepare for a rare live performance in Atwater.

night of the show, in the two hours before they go on air. And by the time the clock strikes six in Radio Land, the actors are in their positions around the microphone, the director ready with an arsenal of sound effects. In my correspondence with Seamans about the club, he invited me to the studio and I was handed a role; I wouldn't just be observing, I'd be participating.

Headphones on, just after Alpenglow had finished recording in the studio, seven actors and I sat around a single table in the small and cozy, but a-bit-too-warm WRMC studio, one microphone hanging above the center of the table. The first

play, *The Dark Tower*, written by Alexander Woolcott was a thriller, a story about an actor and his retelling of the murder he got away with. William Starkoff '15, who played one of the main characters, demonstrated an impressive array of voices throughout the play, transitioning seamlessly between the voice of the actor Damon and his murderous persona Max.

"Sometimes you'll be totally surprised by a voice one of the actors pulls out of nowhere, often the actors even surprise themselves," Davies said. "What's great about radio is you can make it what you want it to be, you get a lot of people who really want to be there," Seamans

added.

The group performed four plays in total on Saturday, with themes ranging from mystery to comedy. While the three longer pieces had a serious tone to them, the more serious mood was made much more whimsical by a faux-commercial from MRTOTS "sponsor" the Lipo-Lax 3000, an infomercial-style skit in which I played an actor reluctant to be participating in the advertisement of a seemingly dangerous do-it-yourself liposuction/candle and soap making kit. The skit was written and directed by Ben Mansky '15.

"We always try to put on any original scripts that get submitted, and we mean anything," Davies said. "Often they end up being all over the place."

About one third of the plays the group performs are original student works, the rest being vintage radio plays or adaptations of other shows for the radio. Many of the student works are one-offs, but the group has a few recurring and episodic pieces, as well. Each Christmas season, they perform scenes from a continuing holiday saga, written mostly by radio theater alums, featuring characters like Jack Frost, a CIA agent and a cast of holiday-pun names.

Seamans has also written and directed a few episodes of a still-growing miniseries, *The Wild You*, a story that follows a vagabond who has broken his leg, decides to settle down in a small town in New Mexico and meets an eccentric cast of characters. All of the music for the series is composed and performed live in the studio during the performances by Dustin Lowman '15.

During winter term, the group puts on a live show in the Hepburn Zoo — this past January's show being the third ever performance.

Last Thursday, MRTOTS also performed three student-written pieces (two of which were also performed on Saturday) in front of a live audience at Atwater suite BCG, a student-run art house for the display of student-created art on campus.

"[BCG] really feels like what the Atwater suites were intended for," Carlson said. "It's a wonderful place for student artwork to be showcased. There are some great people there."

Attracting actors, writers and anyone interested in radio, MRTOTS demonstrates an undying devotion to what they do while still maintaining a relaxed atmosphere. Their sheer ability to produce an impressive array of skits each week is impressive; every show is performed live and recorded. Their website — middleburyradiotheater.com — features an archive of every performance in their eight years of existence. (Their site is experiencing technical issue and while the recordings are all still there, the group is working to restore the interface. To find the recordings, go to middleburyradiotheater.com/files.)

Sitting in and participating in their live show, I was immediately greeted by a laid-back and friendly atmosphere; a great introduction to a group I feel has not received the attention they deserve on campus.

"What I love about radio theater," Carlson said, "is that it feels like low commitment and yet it's incredibly productive. It's something that I can have fun doing without stressing out too much."



Middlebury Radio Theater of Thrills and Suspense actors perform student-written scripts in person at Atwater suite BCG.

DON'T MISS THIS

Nathan Laube Concert

Musician Nathan Laube celebrate Bach's birthday at Middlebury with an organ concert. Nathan Laube rose to become one of the world's most elite performers. Bring a friend and listen to works by Mendelssohn, Widor and more.

3/21, 7:30 P.M., MEAD CHAPEL

Undressing Cinderella

Undressing Cinderella is a festival of plays all written for the New Play Festival. Playwrights around the nation to take a new twist on an old classic by writing a play using any character other than Cinderella. Program A runs Wed. and Fri. Program B will run on Thurs. and Sat. 4/10-13, 8 P.M., WRIGHT MEMORIAL THEATER

The Igloo Settlement

Students Daniel Sauermilch '13, Paula Bogutyn '14 and Jordan Jones '13 banded together to produce *The Igloo Settlement*, a play about the aftermath of a disastrous snowstorm in a small Pennsylvania town. Come find out what remains of American values at the wake of catastrophe.

4/18-20, TBA, HEPBURN ZOO

Senior work "17 1/2" explores breaking and restarting

By Jiayi Zhu

"17 1/2", the senior acting thesis of Sumire Doi '13 and Rachel Goodgal '13, opened last Thursday in the Hepburn Zoo. It featured nine scenes from eight writers, among which Doi wrote a monologue.

"17 1/2 is a breaking stage," Doi said, "half is the state of in between, and the play is about the whole process of restarting."

"We started last summer to look into plays," Goodgal explained, "but it is hard to find a full play that has two equal-sized female leads. Besides, there are not a lot of directing-focused theatre seniors or juniors, and no one is available to direct a whole play." Because of this, Doi and Goodgal ended up putting the best scenes of the best plays together. According to the directors, 17 1/2 became their own creation.

"We spent several months putting the play and the team together," Goodgal said. "It wasn't until last December that we decided to do scenes. It took more time to put material together than to rehearse it". Doi liked the format of the performance because in this way "order can be switched

around and we have more freedom."

Doi and Goodgal started with "Supreme Beings Create the World" by Mo Gaffney and Kathy Najimy, in which both of them were giving orders and arranging details as the supreme beings of the world — in this case, their project. After that, they explored the theme of restarting and regenerating under different situations and distinct relationships throughout their production.

"I really liked the postmodernism of the collage and how multiple plays were incorporated seemingly seamlessly," said Anis Mebarki '15 who attended the Friday 8 p.m. show. "Especially whenever the characters undressed."

"We change the costume on stage mainly because we don't want to interrupt the flow," Goodgal explained. "Besides that," Doi added, "transition is such a good opportunity to play with: that's one moment you can create your own thing. There's no lines, no playwright and technically, we have no director either, so we got to do whatever we want to. We put a lot into transition, like getting musicians and spotlight." There was no doubt that the au-

dience enjoyed the final product.

"On Thursday night when we opened," Goodgal recalled, "I was overwhelmed by the positive receptions that we got from people that I didn't know. I was really touched."

"It's so different with each audience," Doi added. "It's interesting to see how people respond to different things. Friday night's audience really liked the monologue and that's what they talked about."

Doi and Goodgal changed Dusty and the Big Bad World into Goodgal's monologue in order to fit in the context of the whole show, so they decided to have another monologue for Doi. After careful research, Doi wrote her own monologue to represent a Sumi she created in her head.

"I didn't know which Sumi to portray," Doi said, "since I'm such a fragmented person, I find it hard to find the one image that I want to show to the audience. And I'm very self-conscious when acting myself because people will judge me from what I say in that scene. It's still another role for me."

Interestingly, as the director of Doi's monologue, the first comment Goodgal

gave was "stop acting". "I didn't know how to direct her to be herself," Goodgal said, "I try let her to let herself live on stage, because it's her, but it's hard."

In the Thursday show, the audience seemed to be more engaged in the last scene, "In Paris You Will Find Many Baguettes but Only One True Love" by Michael Lew.

"Audience was already warmed up by that time," Doi said, "it's just so much fun to play with the audience. Even when you are acting a comedy, you forget it's funny because you have done it so many times. It makes such a difference to have the laugh there."

Another meaning of the title "17 1/2" came from the fact that there were 17 students in the company. "It was an amazing cast and crew, and everyone was amazing," said Goodgal, "we are grateful to our team and the collaboration."

There are five directors for the nine scenes, but it is barely noticeable: efforts were made to compile the distinct scenes into a logical play and to present the breaking and restarting atmosphere by passionate yet detailed acting.

INSPIRIT dance troupe honors legacy of Muhammad Ali

By Michelle Smoler

Last Friday and Saturday, March 15-16, Professor of Dance Christal Brown and the INSPIRIT dance troupe performed her dance piece, titled "Opulence of Integrity." A production nearly two years in the making, "Opulence" sought to present the life and legend of world champion boxer Muhammad Ali through the lens of sheer masculine physicality in the form of dancers Danté Brown, Timothy Edwards, Christian Morel '11, Gilbert Reyes and Ricarrrdo Valentine.

The performance began even before the house lights went down — as people milled about taking their seats, three male students, Clifford Alexander '15, Cheswayo Gabriel Mphanza '16 and Debanjan Roychoudhury '16, stood erect, stoic and unmoving downstage, holding newspapers and dressed in suits and bow-ties. Using poignant quotes taken from Ali's life, these three served as narrators throughout the performance, providing a verbal context for the story the dancers portrayed.

The piece was broken into four "movements," each representing a significant period in the legendary boxer's evolution from Cassius Clay to self-titled Muhammad Ali, his tragedies and triumphs as civil rights activist and public speaker for the Nation of Islam movement, as well as his exile from boxing following his refusal to be drafted.

Immediately apparent to the audience even prior to the dancers' entrance was Brown's multimedia approach to the production. In the far right corner of the stage, a screen projected images and words to complement the on-stage performance. In addition, Brown's effective use of costume, props, musical composition and lighting provoked the audience to engage all their senses, which, in concert with the dancers' performance, produced at times a visceral reaction from the audience, yet also proved to be overwhelming.

THE FIRST MOVEMENT

The first movement, "Passing the Torch" began with an introduction from a deep off-stage voice, which explained the intent to remove Ali from his pedestal and show his humanity. The three "narrators" then threw their newspapers to the ground and backed onto the stage, bouncing rhymes between them in the style of spoken-word.

The dancers finally entered in intervals; their movements began low and rooted to the ground, their knees bent on the floor and their upper bodies contracting and releasing, seemingly uncontrollably. They soon progressed to standing position and engaged the rest of their body, fully extending their arms and legs in powerful outward strokes directed at the audience. While there were five dancers, they truly succeed in embodying what Brown referred to as a

"homogenous inner struggle for identity." Whether moving as a five-person unit or pairing off into subgroups to engage in aggressive physical dialogue, the responsive nature of their interactions revealed them as many parts of a whole rather than disconnected entities.

THE SECOND MOVEMENT

The second movement, titled "Larger than Life," displayed Ali at the height of his boxing success, and the start of his relationship with the Black Muslims. The energy on stage shifted dramatically, featuring unique, flowing costumes and a fast-paced funky sound. The dancers moved rhythmically and with seemingly little effort, gracefully and powerfully traversing the stage and thrusting their fists to the sky as in victory. The most surprising and tangibly perceivable change in on-stage energy, however, occurred when Brown herself appeared in a fitted yellow and black jumper, beckoning the male dancers with her sexual and seductive body language. The dancers played gaga, falling theatrically over themselves, as they both sought her out and attempted to restrain themselves. Through her entrance in an otherwise all-male performance, Brown hoped to expose a little-known, more human side to Ali's life — his relationship with women, whom she called his "kryptonite." The playful and exciting interactions between Brown and the dancers stood out from the rest of the piece.

THE THIRD MOVEMENT

The third movement lived up to its title "Standing up and Torn Down." After a brief interlude by Roychoudhury, who vocalized Ali's objections to the Vietnam War — "no Vietnamese ever called me a n****r" — Danté took to the stage in a painful and all-consuming physical expression of the boxer's fall from grace. Accompanied by an electric guitar cover of the national anthem, mashed up with soft chords played in interval and sound bites from the civil rights era, he pushed forward towards the audience before subsequently crashing back to the floor, as if acted on by a powerful external force. The array of conflicting sound, which felt like voices in my head, mixed with the solitary form on the floor only served to enhance the audience's perception of Ali's psychological injury at this point in his life. The other dancers soon reappeared on stage, dressed in military garb and black balaclavas, shoving Danté and stripping him of his clothes, before assimilating him into their army cadre in a unified dance. Carrying unseen rifles, a reworked version of Edwin Starr's "War" repeatedly posed the question, "What is it good for?" The dancing slowed as Danté underwent another public costume change — the other dancers entered and exited, providing him with the

separate pieces of a black suit, off-set with a bright patterned and visually out-of-place bow-tie.

THE FOURTH MOVEMENT

The fourth movement, titled "The Noble Fight," evokes an up-until-then untapped spiritual perspective. The stage effectively transformed into a boxing arena, as the group incorporated several Ali-patented moves, including the Ali shuffle and the rope-a-dope, into the dance. Shadowy figures appeared on the backdrop, overseeing the performers, who, despite going through the former champions' motions, stifled the attitude they had previously exuded freely. The audience experienced the epitome of Ali's defeat as the dancers pointed their arms forward in a motion paralleling the first movement; however, rather than stare defiantly through the fourth wall, they turned their heads down in submission.

In a physical presentation of Ali's return to boxing, two dancers strapped on gloves and engaged in an exchange, the light crew producing towering shadows overhead. Their movements began basic, as though the dancers were attempting to regain their stride, then became stronger and defiant. The performers, then dressed in tie-died African-like fabric, rearranged themselves in a ceremonial configuration, enhancing the ritual feeling of the dance. In the final moments of the performance, the dancers altered their formerly low-riding horizontal movements, extending their bodies upward

in what seemed to be Ali's completed rehabilitation.

The production lasted almost an hour without intermission — a final testament to the stamina of the dancers, whose strength, control and intensity was displayed throughout. As the house lights came on to a standing ovation, the performers, narrators, Brown herself, and composer Farai Malianga took the stage to answer questions and discuss their experience in the production process.

Students were impressed with the epic physicality of the performance and the deep significance of the message it bore.

"When I left the performance, the quote that remained in my mind was one that Christal said after the show: 'Being authentic to one's self is the greatest struggle one goes through everyday,'" Anna G. Stevens '13.5 wrote in an email. "The dancers, combined with the student speakers, certainly represented this struggle Muhammad Ali went through and that African-American men, and perhaps each and every one of us, continue to struggle with today."

In describing what lasting impression he would take from the performance, Mzwakithi "Prestige" Shongwe '16 said, "The legacy that is Muhammed Ali is one that appeals to the human essence, and transcends the notions of race and religious affiliation. Integrity, failure, pride and perseverance. All these are the demons and angels we all have come across somewhere down our path in this world."

THIS WEEK ON WRMC 91.1 FM

ZIG-A-ZIG-AAHH

Middlebury's only 90's tribute show, bringing you the best of the decade from a variety of genres. A time to remember boy bands, frosted tips, Macaulay Culkin and all of the other glories of our youth.

THURSDAY 6 - 8:00 P.M.

50 SHADES OF PERRY

You might know the band, you might know Katy ... you may even know Rick ... but have you met the most famous Perrys of all. Mitch and Mark Perry want to know, can you handle the truth?

FRIDAY 1 - 3 A.M.

THE ADVENTURES OF DJ PIG BRAIN AND SIR SPITALOT

Ahoy! Welcome to the Adventures of DJ PigBrain and SirSpitsalot. Come with us to explore the world through indie rock, stories and jokes.

FRIDAY 10 P.M. - 12 A.M.

ACROSS THE POND

Get ready for some cool jams from Ireland and the UK. Cozy up with some tea or rock out. Just keep calm and carry on listening to the best music from across the pond.

SATURDAY 8 P.M. - 10 P.M.

SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT: TREE VANDALISM ON CAMPUS

By Will Henriques

It was almost comical. One of the custodial staff was in the Battell bathroom as I brushed my teeth early one morning during winter term. "You haven't seen a tree, have you?" she asked, peering into the shower stalls. "No, I haven't," I replied, both puzzled and bemused. Coincidentally, I had an interview with Tim Parsons, the College's landscape horticulturalist later that day to discuss his "Trees in the Urban Forest" class, so I filed the encounter away to mention to him.

It turned out that the tree in question, a small oak sapling that had been pulled out of the ground on the night of Jan. 15 in the small quad between Battell and Carr Hall, was not the only victim that night. A nearby lilac had also been uprooted. But this was not an isolated event, either. When I asked Parsons about it, he told me that it was one in a long line of vandalism incidents that began to noticeably increase in number in the fall of 2009.

Parsons has compiled a list of all the events since 2009. In that time frame, there have been at least 31 weekends when vandalism occurred and over 50 different vandalism events in that time frame.

"Most of the damage seems to be in the fall and winter term. If you look at all these dates, there never seems to be all that much in the spring," said Parsons in an interview last week. "[Apart from those] two trees pulled up out of the ground [midweek] during winter term this year, almost all the [vandalism occurs] on the weekend. And of course, I don't know if it's Friday night, Saturday night, or Sunday night. But there have been times when it's so bad, Monday morning first thing, I cruise the campus looking specifically for tree vandalism."

The damage ranges from cosmetic to fatal. The list Parsons has compiled documents snapped branches, savaged shrubs and whole saplings that have been uprooted.

"The vandalism is for the most part located around Atwater, Allen, Battell and along the road behind Proctor Dining Hall and the tennis courts," said Parsons. "It would be hard to quantify the impact on the urban forest as a whole, but certainly there's an entire row of trees that all have been broken in the last four or

five years, and now they have big wounds on the side, they're misshapen. From a tree's perspective, they now have these big wounds that they have to work out how to cope with. Their growth will be affected. And really, from a landscaping perspective, it doesn't look very good."

Brian Marland '15 took "Trees in the Urban Forest," the winter term class taught by Parsons, this past January and ended up writing his final paper on tree vandalism on campus. He noticed the trend of weekend incidents and was curious to examine a possible correlation with weekend alcohol consumption. "I found a lot of psychological evidence that suggested that alcohol increases aggression. Perhaps tree vandalism is an outlet for that pent-up aggression," said Marland in an interview last week.

"Almost all of the tree vandalism on Middlebury's campus occurs late at night on weekends when students frequently drink alcohol and walk across campus in large numbers to parties in other buildings," Marland wrote in his final paper for "Trees of the Urban Forest." He connects it to vandalism incidents that occur in urban settings around bars and nightclubs. He cites a Seattle example given by Marvin Black in *The Journal of Arboriculture*: "Most vandalized Seattle street trees are broken by males aged 17 to 25, mostly in connection with drunkenness or drug trips, and our major vandalism time is right after taverns close at 2 a.m., and for the next three hours..." On a residential campus such as Middlebury's, dorm rooms are often the location of alcohol consumption and take the place of taverns from Black's example."

Parsons brought the issue of tree vandalism to the attention of the Community Council in 2010 with a formal presentation. He was frustrated by his inability to stop it. "It came up around the same time as conversations about dorm damage. The problem with the vandalism that I have is that I can't bill students for broken branches," said Parsons.

But what bothers him more than anything is not the cost. "It's the violence that concerns me," he said. "I mean, I can't emphasize enough, some of the damage that I've seen done, it took some pretty good brute strength that kind of frightens me in a way, especially down in the Atwater suites. It seems like that's an area prone to dark corners and par-

ties in back rooms. To have this [kind of violence] taking place as well... it doesn't seem like a good mix. There's been talk that the social scene on campus needs help. Well, I think this is some proof right here."

"The most effective solutions seemed to be education and public awareness," Marland noted. "I feel like at this school where there's such an ethical consciousness around divestment and the environment, it makes sense to build a student consciousness around our own landscape."

It is an issue of community, on mul-

tipale levels. On one level, tree vandalism impacts the ecological community of the urban forest. On another level, a vandalized campus impacts the ethos of the College's community. And finally, it impacts the community of people who dedicate their livelihoods to maintaining this campus.

"The guys in our shop take great pride in the way they take care of this place," Parsons observed. "They come up to a tree and they see a branch with a big rip in the bark right down the middle, or a sapling they've planted ripped out of the ground, and it just breaks their heart."



COURTESY OF TIM PARSONS

Tree vandalism has become a big problem for Tim Parsons at the College.

FOR THE RECORD

BY CHAD CLEMENS

Intimate communication appears to be a painful endeavor for the modern college student. Indeed, Trevor Powers was a senior at Boise State University when he began writing and recording highly personal tracks under the moniker Youth Lagoon as an outlet for his crippling anxiety and erratic mind. As such, his acclaimed debut, 2011's *The Year of Hibernation*, was rife with earnest nostalgia as depicted through anecdotal vignettes from the perspective of a plague-riddled mind.

Roughly a year and a half has passed since Powers embarked into the world of post-undergrad doldrums, which one would think could only be exacerbated when distracted by the mental strain of constant touring.

Yet he displays a marked maturity in terms of both production ability and lyrical exploration in his sophomore effort *Wondrous Bughouse*.

The album name itself encapsulates the stylistic direction that Youth Lagoon has taken, conveying a striking impression of lush melodies drenched in pastels floating across the expansive landscape of imagination.

That which musically embodied *The Year of Hibernation* – minimalist

electro-synth beats metrically pulsating through hazy, ambient lyrics – is now replaced with whirling, tumultuous and frequently jovial neo-psychedelic pop, as majestic as it is bold, reminiscent of turn-of-the-century space rock acts.

With seven of the album's 10 songs clocking in at over five minutes apiece, *Wondrous Bughouse* is largely defined by ambivalent tensions between artful yet screeching dissonance and euphonious synth-driven melodies; the image evoked is the contrast between errant thoughts clawing at the edge of consciousness while keen introspection somehow keeps them focused.

The most striking example is "Mute," in which a wavery, scraping instrumental moves teasingly back and forth in opposition to an ethereal and shimmering riff that substitutes for a lack of chorus; meanwhile a towering drum loop, one unlike anything Youth Lagoon has done before, punches through the track as the conflicting forces dance around it.

Though perhaps sonically alienating at first, the continuously powerful visceral response molded by the song's cycles

validates the six-minute ride.

It is easy to find yourself joyfully lost in these summery, sickly-sweet cuts sometimes oddly redolent of cartoony carnival music, but that by no means should suggest that lyrical themes are any less dark and mystifying than past releases.

There's a noticeable shift in Powers's mentality in *Wondrous Bughouse*, most bluntly fleshed out by the recurring discussions of mortality, the bane of the young adult's existence.

In the warm, sparsely opening of "Droppla," the artist gives way to a jumbled pot of confusion and anger over a lover lost among unanswered prayers. "Raspberry Cane" bit-

terly yet quite pointedly calls a toast to death before its climactic whirlwind of a conclusion.

Most disturbingly, "Attic Doctor" concludes with a grim picture: "The doctor conceals her grin/To tell us you couldn't have babies."

His thoughts stem from deep contemplation over the role of humanity between the metaphysical and reality, reflecting rather external notions in comparison to

the bedroom intimacy of his earlier lyricism. We are no longer company to his self-reflective journeys through campsites, household TV rooms and a stretch of road in his '96 Buick.

The further Powers retracts into his own subconscious, the closer he comes to stumbling upon the universal within the particular: he returns to reality certainly more assured and accepting of human decay than when he went in.

While the overarching sound of *Wondrous Bughouse* doesn't completely redefine what makes Youth Lagoon unique (the opening minute of "The Bath" confirms it; you may as well be listening to "Cannons" from YoH), its rich and cascading textures make up for some lyrical disappointment to produce an immensely enjoyable listen. Admittedly, I was a sucker for his private obsessions on YoH more so than the forays into collective consciousness in this album.

But then again, my strong liking for the album as a whole is a testament to the excellence of this album's instrumentation. Akin to The Flaming Lips-meets-Animal Collective – more like a regression to the mean, however – this album is meant to be heard through headphones on a tranquil afternoon, so give it a listen and see where it takes you.

YOUTH LAGOON Wondrous Bughouse

AS CURTAINS DRAW, CLEMMONS BOWS OUT WITH A BANG

By Jessica Cheung

The cheerful, vivacious Alexander Twilight Artist-in-Residence Francois Clemmons — decked out in Irish green tamed by his sparkling kaleidoscopic blazer — came out on stage toting a gold purse, pulling out all the stops as he opened the curtains for his last and 10th annual St. Patrick's Day Concert.

Crowned in a gold tiara, Clemmons announced his plans to retire after this semester to a crowd of students, faculty and loyal Vermonters who have come from near and far every year to the concert.

"I came to Middlebury because I love the students and the intense, wonderful, stimulating experience of talking to the students," Clemmons reassured the audience, tears welling up.

"When I tell you I love you, I can't pretend. I care about the Fridays and Saturdays, the liquor and sex — the process of growing up. I simply say, 'You're alright just the way you are.' The students are an important part of why I sing."

On Sunday evening in the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts, the concert presented every instrument from skirling highland bagpipes, penny whistles, pleated accordions and stringing harps. Guest artists included Affiliate Artist Timothy Cummings, Director of Jazz Activities Dick Forman, local artists Margie Bekoff, Jeremiah McLane and Pete Sutherland.

The guest artists frontloaded so much tradition and excitement for instruments new to the audience that it was entrancing.

First, Clemmons sang "Lough Erin Shore," a song with the sad theme of farewell to the mountains of Ireland that Clemmons uses to impart his farewell to the rolling hills of Middlebury College.

Student Ben Harris '16, alum Andy Collin '12, and Cummings followed with "Amazing Grace" on the highland bagpipes, a familiar song Clemmons de-



JESSICA CHEUNG

Director of Jazz Activities Dick Forman on piano and Alexander Twilight Artist-in-Residence Francois Clemmons close the St. Patrick's Day Concert with a spritual sing-along last Sunday at the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts.

scribed as the "perfect of the infusion of Irish music and the music of Black people" — a song many suggest to have Irish origins. With bagpipes strapped around their kilts, the three bagpipers illuminated the room with Celtic spirit, their feet-stomping reverberating across the floor so loud that you couldn't help but tap your shoes matching every beat.

Bekoff's harp solo took the audience to sweet-sad melodies as audience members closed their eyes and allowed themselves to drift off into air of traditional Irish, Scottish and Welsh songs.

Cummings on the penny whistle then rejoined the stage with Sutherland on fiddle and McLane on piano and accordion, playing a set of traditional dance tunes that drew from various outlets from Ireland to Brittany in France. While the concert hall stadium didn't give you much room to dance, it made your hearing focus on the vivacious songs and react by wiggling in your seat.

These traditional dance tunes triggered a sudden dynamic shift from sad melodies to a lively celebration that led up to the climactic sing-along.

With lyrics at hand, the audience and Clemmons mashed together on choruses of Irish classics like "Peg of My Heart," "My Wilde Irish Rose" and "When Irish Eyes are Smiling," creating a huge, charismatic crescendo to the concert.

The gradual shift from sadness and seriousness to fun and celebration hammered home variations of one, single theme: through the thick and thin, preserve your spirit and identity — both personally and culturally.

Clemmons managed to strike a balance between the two parts of the concert by bringing light and humor to serious issues.

He opened the concert with heavy subjects, discussing the two teenagers founded guilty of rape in Ohio, the Catholic church, rape and sexuality in the military, theology and spirituality.

"I've been mindful of today's issues: state, national, world issues, global warming," Clemmons reflected. "I like the warm, but I don't want to be burnt to a crisp."

His last concert was a reminder of human spirit and survival. Clemmons paid tribute to those with hearts strong enough to fight for what they believe is right and deserved.

"There has been a lot of war and the Irish write beautifully about it," he said. "I'd like to dedicate this song ['Foggy Dew'] to these warriors. I do not care for violence and I am the unlikeliest of warriors, but if we didn't have warriors like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Gandhi, we would not have civil rights. Never think the job is complete or finished — it's not."



JESSICA CHEUNG

Local musicians Pete Sutherland, Jeremiah McLane and Artist Afiliate Tim Cummings (right to left) play tunes by heart.

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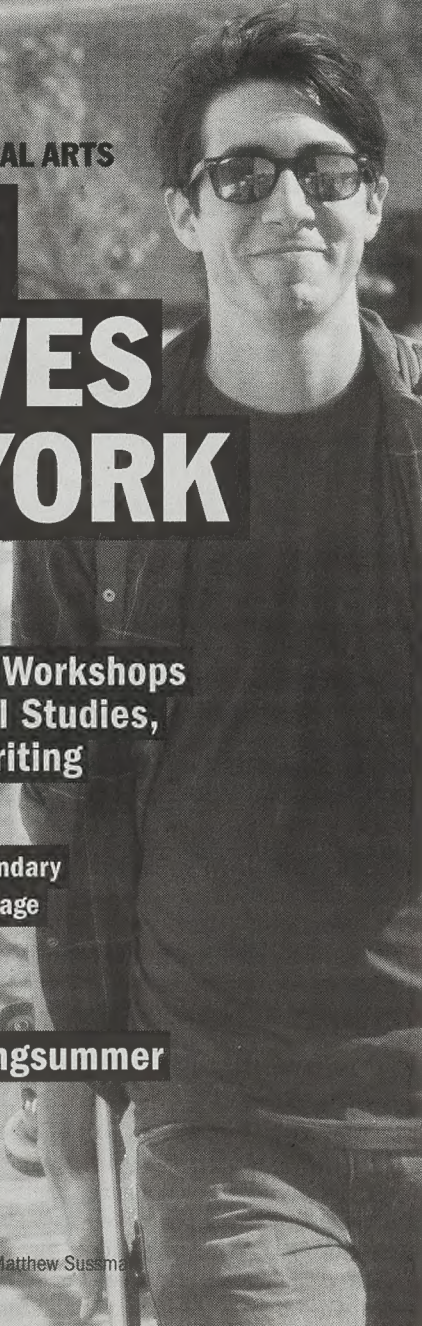
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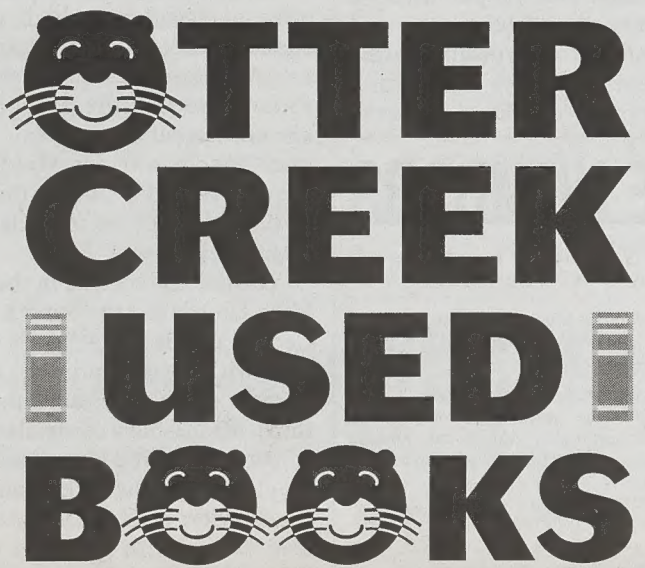
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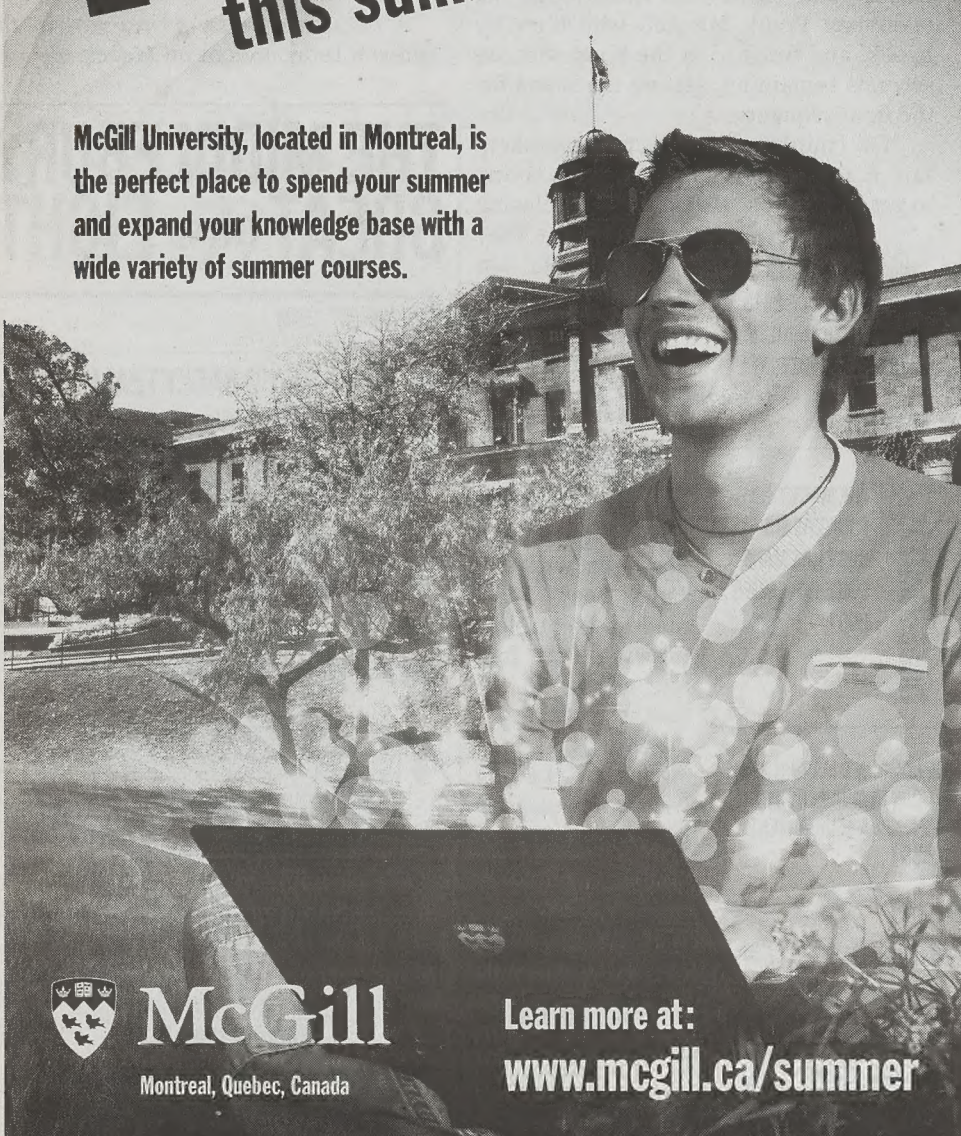
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Men's lacrosse improves to 3-0 with 11-4 victory over Connecticut College

By Owen Teach

Following a 4-9 season that saw last year's Middlebury men's lacrosse team fail to qualify for the NESCAC tournament and record its first losing season since 1990, this year's season is off to a far more auspicious start. The team improved its record to an unblemished 3-0 with an 11-4 win on the road at Connecticut College on Saturday, March 16.

Earlier in the week, the squad romped to an 18-12 victory at home against Springfield on Wednesday, March 13.

With last season's underwhelming results in mind, sophomore Joel Blockowicz '15 spoke of his team's attitude during this early part of the campaign.

"We are all aware of the amount of talent on the roster and the potential we have to be a very successful team," said Blockowicz. "After a very disappointing season last year, the guys understand that nothing is going to be handed over to

us. The dynamic at practice has become much more competitive and upbeat with guys really trying to make each other better. To me, this is the most important aspect of being a great team. Also, I think the seniors and captains have done a really good job laying out our goals and expectations for the season."

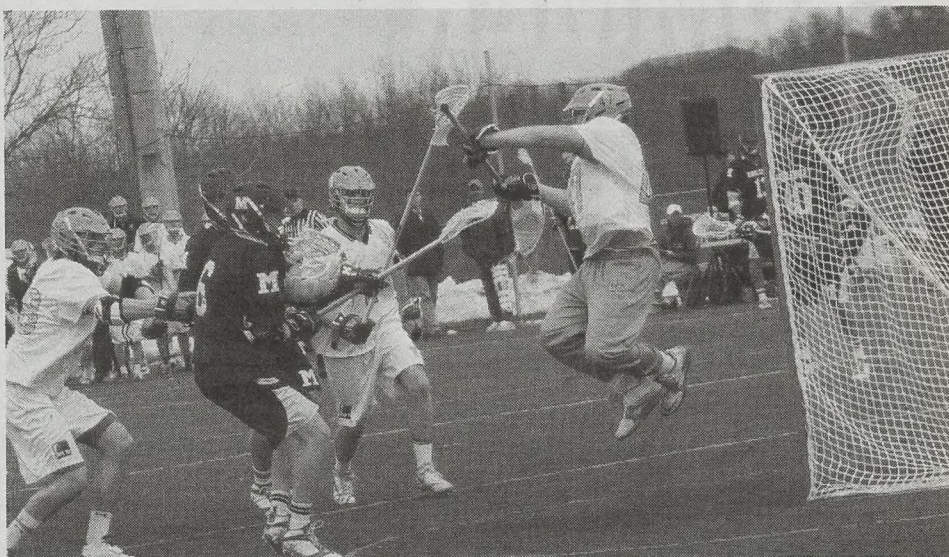
Despite the Panthers' offensive dominance, the Camels built an early 2-1 lead by the end of the first quarter. Andrew Metros '13 opened the scoring for Middlebury 5:31 into the game before Conn. College responded with two unassisted tallies at the end of the period.

The home team added another goal to extend its lead over Middlebury to 3-1 with 13:45 remaining in the second quarter.

From there, however, the Middlebury offense kicked into high gear. Metros added his second of the game with 8:59 to go before first-year sensation Jon Broome '16 tied the game at three with his ninth goal of the year on an extra-man opportunity for Middlebury. Stew Kerr '13 recorded the Panthers' final goal of the half with 26 seconds left, putting them ahead 4-3.

To open the scoring in the second half, Mike Giordano '13 found a helper from George Curtis '14 - again on the man-up - with 8:59 remaining. After another Camels' goal with 7:06 on the clock in the third, Middlebury controlled the game.

Broome scored his second of the game to close out the third quarter before Blockowicz, Metros and Kerr pushed the lead to 9-4 with 7:05 left in the game. Then, Brian Ayers '14 and Broome piled it on in the game's last 1:30 to cement an



COURTESY OF JEFF PATTERSON

Jon Broome '16 scores one of his three goals in Middlebury's win over Conn. College, Saturday. Broome is the team's leading goal scorer with 11 goals through three games.

11-4 win.

With his hat trick, Broome has now recorded at least three goals in his first three college lacrosse games. He is now tied for second in the NESCAC with 11 goals on the year, behind only Ian Deveau's (Colby) 12.

Harrison Goodkind '16 reflected on his team's performance in the win.

"For this game especially, being able to win 11-4 after being down 3-1 in the beginning of the game shows our team's mental toughness and level-headedness," said Goodkind. "Also, for our defense to come back after an unacceptable game against Springfield and hold Conn to only four goals is huge."

Blockowicz is excited about the team's chances headed into the teeth of the NESCAC schedule.

"I think the first three games have shown our team potential," said Blockowicz. "We have shown we can win in many different ways with strong defense, a balanced offense and great communication and goaltending. When we are playing our best lacrosse it has become apparent that many teams cannot hang with us."

The Panthers take on conference foe Wesleyan at home this Saturday, March 23, before facing Hamilton and Bowdoin over spring break on March 27 and 30, respectively.

"As we get deeper into the season it will be interesting to see if we can have this explosion and consistency throughout the whole game," said Blockowicz. "The goal is to be playing our best lacrosse in May."

BY THE NUMB3RS

15 Margin of victory for women's lacrosse over Connecticut College this past weekend.

20 Number of points scored by Nolan Thompson '13 and Jake Wolfen '13 in the basketball team's tight victory over Ithaca College.

25 Shots saved by Annabelle Jones during the national championship game, Saturday March 16. Despite Jones's heroics, Middlebury lost 1-0.

11 Number of points scored by men's lacrosse player John Broome '16 in just three games.

23 Number of consecutive wins by the Miami Heat at the time of print; the second-longest winning streak in NBA history.

Wolfen, Thompson lead Panthers to Elite Eight

CONTINUED FROM 24

Trailing by double digits, Ithaca launched a run of its own, scoring the game's next eight points as Maravich knocked down a pair of threes to cut the Middlebury lead back to two. Then, after another Wolfen three followed by a pair of free throws from tri-captain Peter Lynch '13 gave Middlebury a 62-55 lead at the 6:29 mark, the Bombers answered with another mini-run of their own, cutting the deficit back to one with less than five minutes remaining in regulation.

The visitors completed the comeback minutes later as Maravich hit yet another three to give his team a 68-67 lead, completing a 21-10 Bombers run over a period of 9:57 to take the lead with less than two minutes in the game.

The Ithaca advantage was short-lived, however, as Lynch recaptured the lead for the Panthers with a pair of free throws.

After a pair of misses on the other end, Ithaca elected to put Middlebury on the line in the one-and-one rather than allow the Panthers to run the clock below 30 seconds and potentially convert on a shot at the end of the shot clock. Thompson, who entered the game as Middlebury's

best free throw shooter on the season missed the front end off the back rim, resulting in a high-arching rebound, which Jensen tipped in the air once, and then corralled before being fouled.

A year ago, in Middlebury's Sweet 16 loss to Scranton, Jensen made just two of his 10 free throws, a statistic that loomed large in the Panthers' three-point loss at the buzzer. Saturday, however, Jensen

again Thompson missed on the front end of the one-and-one. Off the miss, Ithaca point guard Sean Rossi found his teammate Frank Mitchell who blew by Lynch, and finished at the hoop with six seconds remaining, setting the scene for the final sequence.

"I'm [thinking] 'just go to the basket,' said Kizel of the final play. "I was trying to get a layup, but they did a good closing me down. They were a little too aggressive, and I got fouled. I was just trying to make a play and get a shot off, and we were able to."

"Our philosophy is to push [the ball] and try to make a play," Brown said, "and Joey Kizel made a great play, drawing that foul and getting to the free throw [line]."

Kizel then stepped to the line with a chance to tie or win the game with 1.8 seconds left.

"When I got to the line I was hoping the first would trickle in, because I knew the second one would go in if I hit the first," said Kizel of his game-tying and game-winning free throws.

The victory Saturday gave Middlebury's three seniors 104 career wins, the most in team history. Middlebury will play North Central (Ill.) in the Elite Eight on Friday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Salem Civic Center. The winner will advance to the

Final Four and play the winner of the Amherst-Cabrini game.

A version of this article ran in the Addison Independent on March 18.

40 OF THE **73**
POINTS WERE SCORED BY NOLAN THOMPSON '13 AND JAKE WOLFEN '13

18 SECONDS
AMOUNT OF TIME REMAINING WHEN JOEY KIZEL '14 MADE TWO FREE THROWS

MIDDLEBURY ADVANCES TO THE
ELITE 8

THE FIRST
24
POINTS OF THE SECOND HALF CAME ON MADE THREES

104
15
THREE-POINTERS

NUMBER OF CAREER WINS BY THE CLASS OF 2013, THE MOST IN MIDDLEBURY BASKETBALL HISTORY

THE MOST THREE POINTERS MIDDLEBURY HAS MADE SINCE NOVEMBER 2007

THE COMBINED MARGIN OF VICTORY IN MIDDLEBURY'S THREE NCAA TOURNAMENT GAMES

IN SALEM, VA TO PLAY NORTH CENTRAL (ILL.)

7

THE MIDDLEBURY GREAT GR8 EIGHT

RANKING CHANGE TEAM
Fritz's Fancies

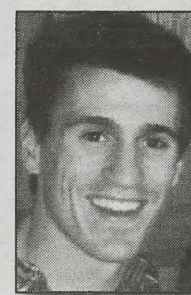
- 1 MEN'S BASKETBALL**
Off to Salem after a nail-biter in Pepin.
- 2 WOMEN'S HOCKEY**
Pulled off two huge upsets en route to the title game.
- 3 WOMEN'S LACROSSE**
Scoring doesn't appear to be an issue for this year's squad.
- 4 MEN'S LACROSSE**
Looked strong in a convincing win over Conn. College.
- 5 WOMEN'S SWIMMING**
Now off to Texas for NAAs.
- 6 TRACK AND FIELD**
San Diego beaches are good for the great eight.
- 7 MARCH MADNESS**
Damon has coaches on speed dial ... you can't touch his bracket.
- 8 SPORTS EDITORS**
Crushing it in Hepburn Basement since '05.

PANTHER PROFILE

Interviews with Middlebury's
Student Athletes

By Christine Schozer

Brian Foster '13 (Medfield, Mass.), is a midfielder and face-off specialist for the men's lacrosse team. Foster began playing lacrosse in the fifth grade. He did not know much about the sport, but he knew that if you signed up you could hit guys, which sounded appealing after having previously played soccer. In high school, Foster earned regional league awards and was a two time All-American. Last year at Middlebury, Foster was named the team's co-Most Valuable Player. Foster is an English major.



1

What are your goals for this season?

A couple of years ago I would have said I wanted to win a national championship [and] I still do. But I'm not sure that setting that as the goal is a good way to look at the season, especially at the start because you set yourself up for failure if you do that. If you accomplish things as a team, grow together and improve over time, that's pretty good. You can't measure everything based on wins and losses. I would like to see [the team] progress from day one to May. And we have done that so far, which has been really exciting. We started strong and I think the energy on the team is better. Everyone is really buying in and excited. I could say something cliché like, "It's the journey," but it really is.

2

What was your first memory of the sport?

I went to practice in my mom's minivan with three other kids from my neighborhood. I showed up with all of my pads, helmet and stick. I was handed a jersey with the number double zero. This was the most humiliating and miserable thing that could possibly happen to me. I was little ticked off about that, but it worked out okay. It was a good slice of humble pie on day one.

3

What is your most recent stand out memory?

This season has been a lot more fun than last season. This past weekend, I think we played one of our most complete games since I've been a part of this program at Middlebury. We dominated all four phases of the game — defense, offensive, goalie and face-offs. [The] offense played [well] all four quarters. It was an overall team win and you really remember those because everyone is really excited at the end of the game [and] jacked up.

4

What has been a pivotal moment in your career so far?

I had a big break my freshman year of high school. I was always a hard worker, but didn't have the best stick skills. I noticed an opportunity to get on the field more often was to take face offs because nobody wanted to. The more face offs I took, the more other people didn't. During my freshman year, a senior on the varsity had been taking face offs, but got Mono. The varsity coach pulled me up to take the face offs during the playoffs, which was a terrifying experience, but really cool because I got to play with players who were way better than I was. [Since then], I've rode it from there and I've grown to really like [specializing in face offs].

5

How has life as an athlete helped you as a student?

I'm not sure there is a whole lot of overlap with lacrosse and the English major, but the discipline and time management that comes with committing yourself to a varsity sport for four years at the NCAA [level] definitely helps you in the classroom. I am way more efficient in season than when I am out of season. I think most student athletes say the same thing. When you don't have your sport, you are looking around thinking, "What should I do with my time?" In season, I am more efficient and get to bed earlier.

6

Do you still love the sport?

I think it's important to have a central aspect of your life that's about selflessness and contributing to something where you are a cog in a wheel. That's what I love about lacrosse. What I do is [a] really small piece of the game and you can say that about any one of the 50 players on our team. It's a big roster with 50 guys and only 10 [players] on the field at a time. Any one player is probably disposable, which is something we [discuss] all the time. The best teams are the ones where players recognize that. They are excited to be contributing to something bigger than themselves and not measuring success in a personal or individual way.

Panthers upset Plattsburgh in NCAA semifinal game

CONTINUED FROM 24

over Middlebury's six.

On Sunday, March 16, the Panthers sought to earn their fourth NCAA championship as they stood up against Elmira. Despite taking 30 shots on goal — the Panthers outshot Elmira by four shots over the course of the game — and solid play from all three shifts, the Panthers fell 1-0 to the Soaring Eagles.

Saturday's national championship game marked the fifth time that Middlebury has appeared in the NCAA title game. The Panthers finished the 2012-13 season with a 20-8-2 record.

Elmira, who Middlebury beat twice in the regular season, edged out the Panthers to win the trophy by scoring the game's only goal.

The first period was scoreless as the

teams combined to take just six shots on net, failing to test either Jones or Elmira goaltender Lauren Sullivan.

The second period looked similar until Elmira's Taylor Steadman scored at the 12:26 mark. Steadman cleaned up a rebound off a shot from teammate Sam Curk, and fired a shot past Jones, who appeared to have trouble tracking the puck.

The game started to get physical as Middlebury tallied up two penalties in the second period and Elmira one — the Soaring Eagles' fourth of the game. And despite a power play opportunity and 13 shots on net, Middlebury was unable to connect for a goal and the scored remained 1-0.

The Panthers' inability to find the back of the net continued throughout the third period and the Panthers fell just

short of a fourth national championship.

"The weekend was a whirlwind," said Heather Marrison '13. "I think everyone is extremely happy with the result and obviously we would have loved to win it all, but we are excited because we accomplished a lot to get there. Beating previously undefeated Plattsburgh was definitely one of my favorite moments in the season."

Middlebury held a 30-26 advantage in shots on net in the loss. Elmira had

eight penalties, while Middlebury only had four, meaning that the Panthers had four extra minutes of power play, which proved unsuccessful.

Marrison was named to the all-tournament team while Madison Styrbicki '13 earned All-American honors as both capped off tremendous senior seasons.

"Overall, I think that it was a great way to end the season and is a feeling we will hold on to for a while," said Marrison.

"Obviously we would have loved to win it all, but we are excited because we accomplished a lot to get [to the national championship game]."

HEATHER MARRISON '13

DEFENSE

PANTHER SCOREBOARD

MEN'S LACROSSE vs. Conn. College	11-4 ^w	After a disappointing season last year, the team is looking to continue its winning streak.
WOMEN'S LACROSSE vs. Conn. College	18-3 ^w	The girls showed a broad talent base in this easy win.
WOMEN'S HOCKEY vs. Elmira	1-0 ^L	The team fell after a hard fight in their fifth title game appearance.
MEN'S BASKETBALL vs. Ithaca	73-72 ^w	Middlebury advances to the elite eight in Salem, Va.

EDITORS' PICKS



DAMON HATHEWAY (103-86, .545)



FRITZ PARKER (14-15, .483)



OWEN TEACH (62-70, .470)



ALEX EDEL (82-99, .453)

Pick 'Em: Middlebury vs. North Central (Ill.) in Elite 8?

MIDDLEBURY
Middlebury learned something from its last trip to Salem: you have to make your free throws. North Central doesn't.

NORTH CENTRAL
Gotta get to .500 somehow.

NORTH CENTRAL
Damon says it's a good team. I listen to Damon when it comes to D3 basketball.

MIDDLEBURY
How can a team be north and central at the same time?
#atleastweknowweremiddle

Name the D1 Final Four teams (most correct choices gets point).

LOUISVILLE, VCU, OHIO STATE, MIAMI
Shaka Smart has everyone thinking the same thing:
#FearTheHavoc

LOUISVILLE, GEORGETOWN, OHIO STATE, INDIANA
But I'm happy as long as Duke doesn't make it.

LOUISVILLE, FLORIDA, OHIO STATE, INDIANA
I've got a solid 0.0025% chance of getting this all right.

LOUISVILLE, OHIO STATE, MIAMI, KANSAS
Phoned this one out.
#thanksdad

How many games will women's lacrosse win over spring break?

THREE
Gettysburg and Bowdoin in the same week is brutal.

THREE
Two top-10 opponents in one trip is a lot, even for this team.

FOUR
It's a long, long stretch on the road.

FOUR
The rematch with Gettysburg will be tough, but they got this.
#mgriffinplayslax

How will Middlebury baseball fare in three games against Williams in Arizona?

2-1
Eph Williams.

1-2
This one is a toss-up for sure.
#hashtag

1-2
On an unrelated note, the Washington Nationals are going to win the World Series.

1-2
I'll give them a game, but Williams is a tough team.

Middlebury Elite; Men's hoops headed to Salem

By Damon Hatheway

The Middlebury men's basketball team advanced to the Elite Eight of the NCAA tournament with a 73-72 win over Ithaca College on Saturday, March 16. Junior guard Joey Kizel '14 made a pair of free throws with 1.8 seconds remaining in the game to give his team the decisive points. On the final play of regulation, Ithaca's Travis Warech attempted a desperation heave at the buzzer, but his shot bounced harmlessly off the backboard, cementing Middlebury's return to Salem, Va., where the Panthers played in the Final Four just two years ago.

Nolan Thompson '13 and Jake Wolfen '13 led all scorers with 20 points apiece for the Panthers, as the senior guards combined to shoot 12-20 from beyond the arc.

"[My shot has] been feeling good, but it just wasn't going in," said Wolfen, who entered the game shooting 28 percent from beyond the arc. "I got out there and felt confident. It was the biggest game of any of our careers in front of our home

fans [and] my last home game. I felt like I needed to have a performance that would take us to the next level."

Middlebury as a team combined to shoot 15 of 24 from three, including a streak of seven straight to start the second half. Kizel, meanwhile, chipped in 13 points of his own as Middlebury's trio of starting guards combined to score 53 of the team's 73 points.

"[The threes] were all good looks," said Kizel. "It's all about inside-out. We're moving the ball really well and getting touches in the paint first, either through [Lynch] or [Roberts] or [Jensen] or by dribble penetration."

Ithaca opened the game, and played much of the first half in a triangle-and-two defense. Despite limiting the offensive looks for Kizel and Thompson early, the defense conceded open shots for Wolfen. After missing his first attempt of the game, Wolfen knocked down his next three shots, including two threes, as the New Jersey native scored seven of his team's first 13 points.

"We anticipated that they

would play triangle and two and face-guard [Kizel] and [Thompson] and bait [Wolfen] into taking some perimeter shots," said head coach Jeff Brown. "I was a little concerned when he missed the first, but he made some really big shots for us and got them out of that defense and into man-to-man."

Behind Wolfen's early contribution, the Panthers maintained a narrow lead for much of the first half, taking a six-point lead — their largest of the half — with 2:29 remaining in the half. Ithaca ended the half on an 8-4 run, however, as guard Eli Maravich — the nephew of the great "Pistol Pete" Maravich — drained one of his team-high five three-pointers just seconds before the first-half horn sounded to cut the Middlebury lead to two at the break.

Kizel led all scorers at the break with 11 points, while Wolfen and Thompson each had eight and junior swingman James Jensen '14 contributed seven points off of the bench. Collectively, Middlebury shot a scorching 59 percent from the floor in the first half on 13-22 shooting, while holding Ithaca



PAUL GERARD

The men's basketball team celebrates after Joey Kizel '14 sank a pair of free throws with 1.8 seconds remaining to give his team a 73-72 win over Ithaca. The win advanced the Panthers to the Elite Eight.

under 38 percent as a team. The Bombers, however, kept the game close by crashing the offensive glass and limiting their turnovers.

Out of the half-time break, Ithaca took advantage of a slow restart from the Panthers, scoring on each of their first three possessions to take the lead for the first time since the 7:02 mark in the first half. Middlebury responded,

however, making seven threes in seven attempts after missing its first four shot attempts in the second half.

The barrage of threes reached its apex at the 11:35 mark, as Thompson sank three treys over a 2:35 stretch, catalyzing a 12-2 Middlebury run and extending the Panther lead to 10, the largest of the game.

SEE WOLFEN, PAGE 22

Women's hockey falls to Elmira 1-0 in NCAA championship game

By Mary Claire Ecclesine

The Middlebury women's ice hockey team flew to Wisconsin last week to compete in the "Frozen Four" of the NCAA tournament. Saturday, March 15th, the team claimed a 4-1 victory over previously undefeated Plattsburgh State, advancing Middlebury to the national championship game on Saturday, March 16. Unfortunately, Sunday did not conclude in the same fashion, as the Panthers fell to Elmira 1-0. The Soaring Eagles scored the game's lone goal 12:32 into the second period and the Panthers, despite attempting 30 shots on goal could not beat Elmira goaltender Lauren Sullivan, who earned her 11th shutout of the season, stymieing Middlebury's championship aspirations.

In addition to sending the Panthers to the national championship game, Friday's victory over Plattsburgh State also avenged the team's Jan. 30 loss to the Cardinals in the regular season. The game remained scoreless for the first 10 minutes until senior forward Lauren Greer '13 tapped in the opening goal. The Panther goal came during a power play and was assisted by Hannah Bielawski '15. The score remained 1-0 for the remainder of the period despite six penalties between the two teams.

Plattsburgh opened the



COURTESY OF DAVE HARWIG

The women's hockey team celebrates with goaltender Annabelle Jones '15 after their 4-1 victory over Plattsburgh in the Frozen Four.

second period with a hard shot on net that almost tied the game 34 seconds into the period. However, the Panthers answered as Emily Fluke '15 scored her 17th goal of the season at the 3:40 mark. The goal was unassisted as Fluke had the puck to herself when she nailed the wrist shot and brought the game to 2-1. The second period finished 2-0, however, the roles were reversed as Plattsburgh had four more shots on net than Middlebury and tallied up two more penalties for their squad. In the third period, Plattsburgh scored their first goal of the game at

the 3:07 mark. Molly Downey '13 then brought back the two-goal lead with an unassisted goal at the 17:25 mark. With less than 20 seconds left in the game, Maggie Woodward '13 proved that Middlebury was not content with a 3-1 game and scored her second goal of the season on Plattsburgh's open net.

Throughout the game, goalie Annabelle Jones had a total of 20 saves — two in the first period, nine in the second and nine in the third. Plattsburgh totaled three more penalties

SEE PANTHERS, PAGE 23

Women's lacrosse runs to 18-3 victory

By Gabe Weiswman

The Middlebury women's lacrosse team continued their trend of dominance this past Saturday, March 16, riding a first-half scoring streak to a huge lead against Connecticut College and never looking back en route to an 18-3 victory.

The Panthers, who went into the weekend ranked fifth nationally, took down the Camels by a score of 18-3. With this win the Panthers hold a record of 2-0 overall (2-0 in conference) after handily defeating their first two opponents of the young season.

Emma Kramer '13 opened the scoring for Middlebury with a goal in the game's second minute to give the Panthers the early lead. After a Camel equalizing goal, Chrissy Ritter '16 put the Panthers back up with a goal of her own.

The Camels were able to retie the score at 2-2 with 10 minutes elapsed in the half before Middlebury went on a run of nine consecutive unanswered goals. During this run — which covered nearly 20 minutes — six different Panthers added goals to give Middlebury an 11-2 lead. A Camel goal in the half's final 10 seconds made the score 11-3 going into the break.

Michaela Colbert '13 tallied her third goal of the game to open the second half for Middlebury. The Panther defense — led by Margaret Souther '13 and Maggie Caputi '16 — smothered the Conn. College attack for much of the second half, holding them scoreless on just two shots. Alli Sciarretta '16 recorded the Panthers' final goal of the game

to run the score to 18-3.

In addition to Colbert's trio of goals, Ellen Halle '13 contributed two goals and four assists to the win. Halle currently leads the team in points with 14 points over two games.

Overall, the Panthers overwhelmed the Camels with a barrage of offense, recording 35 shots in the game — including 21 in the first half alone — while the Camels managed just eight shots of their own. Middlebury also held a stark advantage in draw controls while recording fewer penalties during the game.

Goalie Alyssa Palomba '14 came up big as well for the Panthers in the limited number of times that she was needed, stopping four of the six shots she faced in the game.

"It was another great team win, with lots of players contributing all over the field," said Halle. "Defensively we were fantastic the second half, and offensively we were able to score off many of the different plays and sets that we have been practicing. While we should have some tough games coming up this week, the true test for our team will come next Monday when we play Gettysburg who we beat last spring to advance to the final four."

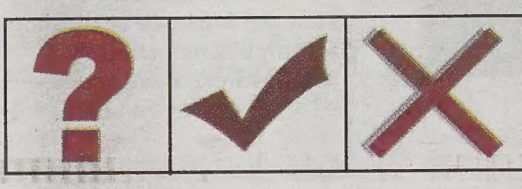
The Panthers return to competition this Saturday, March 23, with a NESCAC road game against Wesleyan. The Cardinals — owners of a 1-3 record this year — finished 11th in the conference a year ago.

Middlebury then goes on the road to Gettysburg, Stevens Institute and Bowdoin during the week as part of their annual spring break trip.

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